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THE BEE,

OR

LITERARY WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER,

CONSISTING OF

ORIGINAL PIECES,
and
SELECTIONS FROM PERFORMANCES OF MERIT,
FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC,

A Work calculated to disseminate useful Knowledge among all ranks
of people at a small expence.

BY

JAMES ANDERSON, LL.D.,
F.R.S. F.A.S. S. & C.

VOLUME SECOND.

APIS MATINE MORE MODOQUE.

Hor.



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THE BEE

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THE BEE,

LITERARY WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER,

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9. 1791.

Characteristical Sketches of the Rt. Honourable Charles James Fox, Esq.

Nothing extraneous, nor set down right in malice.

SHAKESPEARE.

INTREPIDITY is the most striking feature in the character of this gentleman; candour and frankness are conspicuous traits. His propensities are warm, his affections sincere, his antipathies strongly marked. Endowed by nature with great talents, his perceptive faculties are strong; and, impelled by the ardour of his temper, he chooses with promptitude the conduct he is to adopt, and pursues it without wavering. The caution which timidity inspires, his mind is in no degree susceptible of; and he despises, as little and mean, those arts which the bulk of mankind, under the name of *prudence*, consider as virtues of the first magnitude. To this worldly idol he has never bent the knee; and to this circumstance must be ascribed the many rebuffs he has met with in his political career.

Vol. II.

These his natural propensities have been greatly heightened by the circumstances in which he has been accidentally placed. Being the favourite son of an indulgent parent, who beheld with a fond partiality the first marks of genius, which in him were discoverable at a very early period, he was invited to gratify, without reserve, those youthful impulses, which often require to be repressed even among the most dull and phlegmatic part of mankind. Affluence opened to him, at his first outset in life, her abundant stores, which, as was natural to suppose, he dissipated with the most lavish profusion. His manners were of course irregular. Having tasted so early of the cup of pleasure, was it to be supposed that one of his natural warmth of mind could voluntarily abandon its pursuits? He experienced in this situation, perhaps, a higher degree of intoxication, than most other men would have done. Unlike to most other men, however, though deeply immersed in the pursuit of pleasure, his heart, if we are to believe the testimony of his acquaintance, remained uncorrupted, and his perceptive faculties unclouded. Amid the giddy whirl of unceasing amusements, he has contrived to pick up such a diversity of knowledge, as has often confounded his opponents, and astonished his friends. Though environed with difficulties at times, that might have induced one of great natural steadiness to waver, his political friends have never accused him of the smallest tendency of that sort. His acquaintance, therefore, have ever entertained for him the most cordial good will, and sincerest attachment: and his opponents, though from political motives they find it their interest to deprecate him in the eyes of the public, profess for him in private the sincerest respect. Mr. Fox's talents might have qualified him for a statesman of the first rank; but his natural propensities are so ill calculated for acquiring an extensive popularity among a free people, that his efforts to obtain a firm authority in the nation have proved hitherto

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abortive. Like Cæsar's wife, the minister of a free people, if not immaculate, should at least be accounted so. *Prudence*, in one who aspires to this station there-fore, is the cardinal virtue; and our hero, if he aims at power, has certainly been guilty of a very great mistake, when he resolved to disregard its suggestions. Inferior talents, dispositions of the basest sort, and the most obvious improprieties of conduct, if covered with a veil of dissimulation, supported by strong pretensions to virtue and integrity, though contradicted by obvious facts, will be infinitely an overmatch for any person who shall have the imprudence to assume the opposite line of conduct. The people at large are incapable of nice investigations, and may therefore be deceived; but they esteem virtue so much, that where it is apparently disregarded, it will be difficult to conciliate their favour. In vain shall we be told of his candour: Candour, when it opposes the dictates of common sense, can only be accounted weakness. Indeed, every thing in the conduct of this gentleman, whether in admini-stration or in opposition, plainly discovers, that bril-liancy of talents, and acuteness of perception, rather than great application and solidity of judgement, form the basis of his character. Disliking the labour of deep investigation, he too often adopts the opinions of men of talents inferior to his own, and only discovers, when too late, in the course of his rapid public discussions, that he has thus done wrong. As a political cham-pion therefore, aiming at power, Mr. Fox has been guilty of the most extravagant errors in conduct; and his efforts in the senate, however violent, and his reasoning however just, it requires no extraordinary talents to predict, must ever prove unsuccessful, while this line of conduct shall be persevered in.

His oratorical powers are eminent. They take a tinge however, from the natural bias of his mind, and the habits in which he has indulged. Violent and

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impetuous, his words rush forth like a torrent, bursting from sources that had been long pent up, with rapid and impetuous fury. But his orations tend rather to astonish than to convince; to overpower and overawe, than to persuade and conciliate acquiescence in his deductions. The speaker rather than the thing spoken of attracts the attention; its effects therefore are temporary and unimportant. In attacking an opponent, the violence of his manner excites a strong sensation, that the arguments arise from passion and prejudice, rather than from a calm conviction in the mind of the speaker; and the hearers are inclined to suspect a fallacy, even where they cannot detect it, and to range themselves, if unprejudiced, on the side of his opponents. This is an unhappy defect in an orator, though a natural consequence of that bent of mind which Mr. Fox has taken pleasure to cherish. His talents therefore are in every case counteracted by his prejudices, and his own exertions have tended more effectually to frustrate the objects he aimed at, than any efforts of his opponents ever could have done.

As a literary character, Mr. Fox is not well known. He has figured chiefly in the walk of politics; but if we are to judge from some easy pieces that have incidentally dropped from his pen, there is much reason to apprehend, that if his attention had been directed to that line, he would have made a still more conspicuous figure than as a senator. Delighted with the pleasures of social life, he would have indulged his native propensities without constraint, in following the festive paths of Anacreon.

Mr. Fox, though yet a young man, has been long engaged in an active political career. Whether he now really begins to be weary of that incessant bustle in which he has been so long engaged, and seriously wishes to indulge in private life those social propensities that seem to be congenial to his mind, as has been

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confidently asserted; or whether he begins to see the inefficacy of that mode of public conduct he has pursued, and the imprudence of indulging in it, and thinks of preparing himself in good earnest, for attaining the highest object of his ambition, by paying respect to the prejudices of others, in preference to his own propensities, it is not for us to say: but certain it is, that on a late trying occasion†, he acted, unless in one instance, (where it is asserted he was misled by a high law authority) with a moderation and propriety very unlike to what was usual in him on similar occasions; and since that time, his conduct in parliament has been much more temperate than before;—a change that the public in general, as well as his particular friends, cannot help remarking with satisfaction; as it is the general opinion, that the dignity of the British senate has been degraded by that indecent warmth of dispute, which has been too long pursued within the walls of Stephen's chapel.

IN these slight sketches we attempt not to delineate a character; we offer merely a few rude touches, and shall be highly flattered if they shall be found to bear any resemblance to the original. Our aim shall be, neither to warp through prejudice, nor bias from partiality: happy if in these degenerate times, we shall be able to attain a small portion of that firmness of mind which can contemplate the highest dignities without being fascinated with the temporary glare that surrounds them, or that can view the deepest political degradation without feeling a propensity to join in the popular cry of temporary abuse; and thus to mark the living characters as they rise, by a ray of truth however faint, that may serve to give to future enquirers some slight idea at least of the spirit of the times.

† The King's illness.

*On Sir John Sinclair's Statistical Inquiries.**Mr. Bee,*

I HAVE seen a specimen of Sir John Sinclair's collection of statistical observations. The clergy to whom Sir John has judiciously applied, seem to enter into the spirit of this undertaking. They will thereby immortalize themselves, and the age in which they and we live. It is obvious no book of equal information and curiosity has appeared in Great Britain since Doomsday-book; and none such has ever appeared in this end of the island. It is a work, the value of which will increase with time. It will be resorted to by every future statesman, philosopher, and divine, and will afford ample and authentic facts, as a basis for their speculations. I observe, however, the Reverend Gentlemen who have given us the account of the four parishes published in this specimen, have all overlooked a material piece of information; the personal services performed by the tenants and sub-tenants in their parishes. If it be true that no estate has attained any considerable degree of improvement, till these remains of feudality have been abolished, or at least very much circumscribed, and accurately defined; if it be true that personal services, and extreme poverty among the labouring people, are observed to be inseparably united; it cannot but be interesting to know their extent in Scotland, and also the effect of abolishing them. The omission of this information does not appear to be the fault of the clergy; for in the printed queries transmitted to them, I do not observe that this forms one of the number. Luckily it is not too late to sup-

ply this defect. By means of your paper, the clergy may still be informed, that an account of the personal services of their parishes would be grateful to many of your and their readers.

Quæst. 1. Are any personal services performed by tenants or undertenants in your parish?

2. Are they limited, or discretionary and unlimited?

3. If discretionary, how is their discretion generally exercised, and to what extent?

4. If limited, within what bounds?

5. How many days in the year are the tenants obliged to perform these services?

6. What is the nature of them?

7. Any other observations on this subject which have occurred to you.

Answers to the above would, in my opinion, render this great work nearly a perfect one.

I cannot close this letter without observing that the account of the parishes already published, will impress every reader of them with a high idea of the learning, intelligence, and good sense of our Scotch clergy, and prove more than any thing else the wisdom of our church policy, which secures to our parishes in Scotland the constant residence of such men. I am, Mr. Bee, yours,

ALPHABET.

On the Corn Laws.

Part Second.

Concerning the most proper rate of Bounty, and its regulation.

It is well known that the productiveness of Egypt depends upon the height to which the waters of the

Nile rise every year; if the rise be too small, scarcity is certain to ensue; and if the rise be too great, the consequences are equally pernicious. To remedy the first evil, depends upon circumstances that are beyond the human reach; but the sovereigns of ancient Egypt fell upon a happy device for correcting the ill, that threatened them, from a superabundance of water, and of making it administer to their welfare. They prepared an outlet that led to the great lake Mæris, which, when the water rose to a proper height, served as a drain to prevent it from rising higher. In that immense reservoir, the superabundant waters were accumulated, and were reserved for the purpose of afterwards fertilizing extensive regions, which, but for this supply, would have remained for ever barren wastes, or inhospitable deserts.

This well known fact may furnish a proper illustration of the effects of the bounty on corn, though the cases differ in two respects. The Egyptian reservoir was capable of guarding against the effects of superabundance; but it had no influence in preventing the mischiefs that result from a defective supply; whereas the bounty being naturally calculated to increase the productive source, as well as to guard against its overflowing, the mischiefs arising from deficiency, as well as from superabundance, are alike guarded against by it†.

† Some persons will not, perhaps, be able to perceive, how a bounty on exporting corn, should have a necessary tendency to prevent a scarcity. To such the following illustration may be necessary.

No more corn will ever be raised in any country, than is sufficient to supply the effective demand for it, in ordinary years; for if more were raised, the supply would exceed the demand, and the price would, of course, drop below the prime cost to the farmer. Let it then be supposed, that the quantity wanted for the home-market, amounts to —, say one hundred; and that if no bounty were granted, no more than that quantity could there be sold; then the whole quantity reared by the farmer, in an ordinary year, would be precisely one hundred, and no more.

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In this respect, the parallel turns out in favour of the corn laws. In another particular, however, this parallel leans in favour of the Egyptian economy. *There* the effect was always steady and uninterrupted. The waters no sooner rose to the proper level, than they necessarily flowed into their proper channel, without ever being interrupted by any extraneous circumstance whatever. *Here* the operation of natural causes have been hitherto often interrupted by temporary regulations that have tended to produce confusion and partial distress; so that the effects that ought to have resulted from a due developement of the principle, though they have been perceived in some measure, have never been experienced in the degree to merit the applause they ought to have commanded.

The operations of nature differ from the regulations of art, chiefly in this respect, that in nature, whenever any one particular is carried too far, it generally provides a remedy for itself; whereas, in the operations of art, bad frequently degenerates into worse, so that the works are constantly in want of amendment, and unceasing alterations. It is happy when a device can be adopted by man in his attempts at political regulation, which in some measure resembles the simple operations of nature. The contrivance of the kings of Egypt above alluded to, was of this nature. It was simple, certain, and invariable in its operation, whenever the case required it; and never acted but when it

But it might so happen, that in consequence of a bad season, the usual quantity sown, may produce only ninety, instead of one hundred. In this case, there would be a deficiency of ten.

But if, besides the hundred reared for the home market, the farmers, in consequence of the bounty, were in the custom of rearing 110 in ordinary years, the ten overplus finding its way to foreign markets in ordinary years, it would happen, that when a deficiency of crop should be experienced equal to ten, there would still remain a sufficiency for the home market; so that by stopping exportation for that season, the people at home would have still abundance, which they would not otherwise have had. It is in this way, that the bounty adds to the productive sources.

could be of service. Could a device of the same nature be adopted for regulating the bounty on the exportation of corn, the object aimed at would be fully accomplished. Unfortunately, this object seems not as yet to have come within the view of the legislature of Great Britain; and we seem to be every day losing sight of it more and more.

In a case of so much importance as that which calls our present attention, it is worth while to try if any general principles can be discovered that admit of being applied invariably in all cases; and if such principles can be discovered, to endeavour to simplify the operation of the corn laws as much as possible, by applying these principles where it can be done. To approximate towards this point, the following observations are humbly submitted to the public.

Two objects should never be lost sight of in a corn law.

The first is, "to try if possible to prevent the price of grain from ever rising so high as to prove distressing to the poor."

The second is, "to prevent it from ever falling so low as to become ruinous to the farmer."

All mankind are agreed as to these propositions. But when we try to ascertain the meaning of the words *high* and *low*, then we find a prodigious discordancy of opinion; and when we attempt to fix either of these terms with precision, scarcely two persons can be found to agree. Is there no method of removing this difficulty?

It seems to be impossible to do it by fixing on any specific sum; because what would apply to one place cannot apply to another, and what would suit the partial views of one man will never correspond with the equally partial views of another in different circumstances. Besides, were we even agreed as to this point at one time, we should be in a short while as much to seek as ever, because this point can never re-

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main stationary, but must fluctuate as the price of money changes, and other particulars that are constantly vibrating, as the circumstances of the country vary.

Without therefore attempting to ascertain this disputable point, let us for the present assume a point hypothetically like the Algebraist, to serve as a medium for our reasoning, in hope that the result of the operation may be to discover at last the unknown quantity sought.

In this way, let it in the mean time be supposed, merely for the sake of illustration, that 44 s. per quarter is the medium price of wheat; and that as the price recedes from that point, and either rises above, or sinks below it, the price may be denominated high or low.

Supposing that point to be thus ascertained, the object to be next aimed at in a corn law, will be to prevent as much as possible any deviation from that medium price.

With that view, it would seem wise and prudent, that exportation of wheat should be prevented, whenever the price rose above that medium rate, and when it rose a very little above that medium rate, the importation of foreign grain ought to be permitted, either without any duty at all, or under a very small duty.

When, on the other hand, it fell below that medium price, the exportation of grain ought to be freely permitted, and the importation of foreign grain in these circumstances be prohibited.

But it would seem that the simply permitting the exportation of grain, while the price was only a little below the medium rate, is all that justice or sound policy can require. To offer a high bounty in this case, seems to be impolitic and pernicious, as it holds forth a temptation to export considerable quantities when the country is in a situation that cannot spare it; so that in a short time, the price may have been so raised in consequence of that exportation, as to make it ne-

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cessary to bring it back again to supply our own market. In this case, the offering a high bounty is not only the cause of an unnecessary expenditure of public money, but what is worse, it is the cause of an unnecessary fluctuation in the price of grain, which is always pernicious†, and which is the very object that ought to be guarded against by a corn law.

It has so happened, however, that in all the corn laws that have hitherto been enacted for great Britain, this faulty regulation has been invariably adopted. In every case, the language of the law has been, if the price be at or above such a stated sum *per quarter*, you

† As it is impossible to make a case of this nature too clear, I shall throw into the form of notes some cases for illustrating the propositions in the text by examples, to which the reader either may or may not have recourse, as he finds suit his inclination: If the text appears quite clear to him, he may go on; if it appears obscure, he may cast his eye upon the notes below, which will, it is hoped, afford the explanations he wants.

Let us for the sake of illustration suppose, that the average price of wheat, taken in the manner above stated, had been found to be 44 s. per quarter; it might be said to be high when it went above that, and low when it fell below it.

According to our principles, no exportation should be at all permitted when the price exceeded 44 s. in the smallest degree; If it rose a little higher, suppose to 44 s. 6 d. permission should be given to import foreign corn.

If, on the other hand, the price fell below 44 s. ever so little, permission should be given to export grain; but no bounty should be granted until the price fell somewhat say at least 6 d. so that no bounty should be allowed on exportation, unless the price was at or under 43 s. 6 d.

Even when it falls to 43 s. 6 d. at which rate it is proposed that a bounty may be granted, it would be improper to grant so high a bounty as 1 s. per quarter, because, on the supposition that a foreign market can be found, where the price is equal to the home market, such great quantities would be exported in consequence of that bounty, as to raise the price in the home market, till it came to a par with the foreign market, that is to say, in this case, 42 s. 6 d. which is 4 s. 6 d. above the medium price, before the exportation can cease; and no one can say how much higher it might rise. Whereas, had this bounty been either discontinued or moderated, the exportation must soon have ceased, and plenty at home, without superfluity, must have been the consequence.

I have now stated what I think will be the effect of the proposed law, in the case of a high price of grain, and in the case of a low price of grain.

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shall not be allowed to export one single bushel of corn on any account whatever; but if it shall fall ever so little below that specific price, were it but one penny a quarter, you are not only permitted to export corn, but you are authorized to draw the highest bounty upon the corn so exported, that the law in any case allows. This is a pernicious error, that loudly calls for correction;—and this is one of the cases that Dr. Adam Smith, with great justice, severely animadverts upon. It furnishes the means of enriching a few individuals, at an expence to the state, that can admit of no due degree of estimation.

No attempt has ever yet been made to correct this great error;—though nothing, I think, can be more simple or obvious than the principle on which a reform in this respect should be attempted.

The price of corn in any market can only be influenced by two circumstances, acting either together or separately. *First*, By the home supply being greater or less than is sufficient to answer the effective demand for it in the market at the time;—or *second*, Where a free importation or exportation is permitted, by the price of grain in foreign accessible markets being very high or very low at the time. It is necessary to advert to these circumstances separately, before we can form just notions on this subject.

If the quantity of grain at home be more abundant than is sufficient to supply our own internal consumption, the price, if no exportation be permitted, will fall below the average rate;—after which time, if an exportation be permitted, one of the two following consequences must ensue.

First, If the price of that kind of grain, in any accessible markets, should be at that time so much higher than at home, as to exceed the rate of freight, commission, and expences, an abundant exportation would then take

place, so as not only to prevent the price of grain from falling lower, but even, in a short while, to make it rise in the home market above the average rate : Or

Second. If the price in foreign accessible markets was so low as not to afford the freight and other charges, no exportation could take place †. The corn must, therefore, remain on hand until it shall fall to such a low rate, as to be the whole amount of freight and expences below the foreign market, whatever that may be, before one ounce can be exported.

From this example, it appears very obvious, that if no bounty were, in any case, allowed, the price of grain, in our own markets, would, in many cases, be influenced, not so much by the abundance of our own crops, as by the rate of other markets ; and such great rises or depressions of price might be occasionally experienced, as to distress the labouring people, and to derange the operations of the farmer, in such a degree, as to prove highly destructive to the state. It is, therefore, an object well deserving the attention of the legislature, to guard against these evils.

To do this effectually, it becomes necessary to enquire what are the circumstances that render it expedi-

† For example, suppose the price at home to be 43 s. and that the freight and other expences in carrying it to a foreign market amounted to 2 s. 6 d. per quarter, should the price at that market, at the time, be 46 s. 6 d. or upwards, there would be a clear profit of 6 d. or more on every quarter ; so that exportation in this case might go briskly on without any bounty whatever.

But if the price in the foreign market, instead of 46 s. stood only at 45 s. no exportation could take place, till the price fell lower in the home market ; for 2 s. 6 d. the expence of freight &c. added to 43 s. the price at home comes to 45 s. 6 d. prime cost, which is 6 d. above the selling price abroad. No exportation, therefore, in these circumstances could take place.

Again, if the price in the foreign market, instead of 45 s. were no higher than 42 s. ; by the same mode of reasoning it will appear, that no exportation could take place without a bounty, till the price at home fell to 39 s. 6 d. ; or if the price abroad was 40 s. our prices must fall to 37 s. 6 d. and so on at lower prices : the price at home must constantly sink to more than 2 s. 6 d. below the foreign price whatever that may be, before any exportation could take place.

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ent to have recourse to a bounty at all, and in what
cases it can be dispensed with.

The price of corn in any country is not an arbitrary
thing that can be raised or lowered at pleasure. It is
the produce of labour and industry; nor can it be rear-
ed, unless the price of that commodity shall be suffici-
ent to indemnify the farmer for his labour.—The
prime cost must be repaid by the price of the grain,
otherwise the prosecution of that business must be aban-
doned.

But the prime cost of rearing this commodity, may
be greater in one country, than in another, or in one
part of a country, than in another part of it; and of
course, the average price at which it can be sold, may
be higher in one place than in another.

Were the average price of grain nearly the same in
all contiguous countries, and were no restraints ever to
be put upon the sale of this commodity between one
country and another, and were not the expence of trans-
porting it considerable, perhaps nothing more would be
required, than to grant an unlimited freedom to this
trade.

But as corn is an indispensable necessary of life; as
restraints are, or may be imposed arbitrarily by so-
vereign powers upon this trade; as war might interrupt
its course, and as the smallest want of a supply in time
would produce the most grievous distress to the state,
it behoves every people to try, if possible, to supply
themselves with this necessary article at home, and of
course, to pay for it the price it can be afforded for a-
mong themselves.

Wherever, therefore, grain can be reared at a lower
price than among other nations around, nothing more
is necessary to insure an universal plenty, than to free
the trade in this article from unnecessary restraints; as
in that case, by a judicious management, it seems to
be easy to carry on a trade in grain, without having

recourse to a bounty, that will, at all times, insure an abundant supply to the home market. But reverse the case, and the consequences will be extremely different.

If the prime cost of corn, in any country, be on an average, higher than in the countries around, it is not enough to grant permission to export in ordinary or plentiful years, that part of the crop that is not necessary for the supply of the home market. Before it could find its way to that foreign market, without a bounty, the home price must sink so much below the prime cost to the farmer, as to ruin him. The consequence of this event would be, that less corn would be raised in future, than would be sufficient for the home market, in ordinary years; so that that country must depend entirely on foreign parts for a supply;—and must, of course, be subjected to all the evils that such variations of price would produce.

To guard against this evil, a bounty on exportation in these circumstances becomes necessary;—and the amount of that bounty required, will, of course, be greater in one case than in another. Where the prices are nearly equal, and the charge and risk of transport small, the rate of bounty ought to be proportionally low. But where the average rate of the prime cost is much higher at home than abroad,—or where the expence and risk of the transporting it is great, the bounty ought, of course, to be proportionally augmented, if a uniformity in the market price, and an abundant supply of the home demand be aimed at*. No universal rule, therefore, can be established

* For example, supposing the price at home to be 43 s. and the price abroad to be at that time, 45 s. on the supposition that the freight, &c. is 2 s. 6 d. no exportation could take place; for 2 s. 6 d. added, to 43 s. makes the prime cost amount to 45 s. 6 d. which is above the selling price. Before any exportation, therefore, can take place, without a bounty, the price must drop to 42 s. 6 d. at least, or 42 s.; at which last rate, the profit on export would be 6 d. But if one shilling bounty had been

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1791.

ON THE CORN LAWS.

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for the best rate of bounty that should be granted.—Every state must adopt that which its circumstances and relative situation with respect to others shall require.

But whatever the rate of bounty is, that may be necessary upon the whole, it never can be expedient to make that rate of bounty invariably the same, (unless great care be taken to obviate the evils that would originate from this source); because the price in foreign markets, as well as at home, are subject to great fluctuations; and therefore might give rise to great irregularities in the demand.

Let it be supposed, for example, that on a fair investigation of circumstances, it should have been found, that the average price of wheat in England, was, including freight and charges, equal to 5 s. per quarter higher than the surrounding accessible markets, so that that rate of bounty on exportation was judged the most expedient that could be adopted; it will plainly appear, that if, when wheat in our markets fell to the medium price at which permission is granted to export, while the price in foreign markets was considerably above their average rate, say 2 s. 6 d., it would then happen, that there would be a very great demand from hence, as, by the aid of the bounty,

granted when the price fell to 43 s., the same profit would be allowed, as if it had fallen to 42 s. at home.—And if, in consequence of that exportation, the price in the home market rose to 43 s. 6 d. the profit in that case would become null, and exportation would of course then stop of itself.

But should the price abroad chance to rise at the same time, in the same ratio, the profits would be the same as before; and therefore, the exportation would continue as formerly, so as still to raise the prices higher at home; but if, instead of then continuing the bounty at one shilling, it fell to 6 d., the exportation would cease, as the profits would thus also be null.

It might, however, happen, that the prices abroad were very low; that instead of 45 s. it amounted to no more than 44 s.; and in that case, no exportation, without a bounty, could take place, till the price at home fell to 42 s. 6 d.; for 42 s. 6 d. added to 3 s. 6 d. is exactly 46 s.; but if a bounty of 2 s. were offered, when the price fell to 42 s.

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(which is supposed to be enough for indemnifying the merchant, when the prices abroad are at their average rate), an extra profit of half a crown would be obtained on every quarter. In these circumstances, therefore, without regard to the consequences at home, great quantities would be shipped off. The country may be exposed to scarcity, and high prices of course ensue.

Two methods of checking this evil may be adopted. The first is, to make the rate of the bounty that can be claimed, less when the prices at home are near the medium rate, than when the prices fall much below it. Thus, in the case above stated, had the bounty granted been half a crown, instead of five shillings, the extra exports would have been entirely prevented, and the evil complained of obviated.

The second method of checking it, is, to render the period at which the prices that regulate importation and exportation, recur very frequently. For if, instead of allowing three months to elapse before any legal stop could be put to the pernicious exportation, circumstances had been so arranged, as that in three weeks, or in three days, the prices could be legally ascertained to be so high as to put a stop to further exportation, the evil might have been in like manner obviated.

But if we thus find, that the average rate of bounty, may, from an accidental elevation of price abroad, be too high; from an accidental depression of price there, it may also become too low; in consequence of which, no exportation could take place, till the price in the home market, fell so much below prime cost, as greatly to discourage the farmer. This is an evil, that ought to be guarded against, by so regulating the bounty, as that when the price at home fell very low, the bounty should become higher so as to force the superfluous quantity to a market, without deranging the internal economy of the state. This could be attended with little expence to the state, as the

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1791.

ON THE CORN LAWS.

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price could seldom be so low as to make this high bounty necessary;—and when it did become necessary, it would then continue for a very short time, as the price would quickly rise, and the rate of bounty with that rise would abate.

By this mode of reasoning, it would appear, that if it were intended, that a bounty of 5 s. per quarter were to be allowed upon the whole, it would be expedient to make that rate of bounty variable, being smaller than 5 s. when the price fell only a little below the medium, and higher when it fell considerably below that.—Were this done, and the time for regulating the rate of bounty by the price of grain very short, every possible benefit that can be derived from a corn law, would be experienced.—Its operation would be steady and uniform;—it would adapt itself to the circumstances of the case, without danger of error;—in consequence of which, a superabundance could never prove hurtful, nor a pernicious scarcity be ever experienced.

It remains, that we should enquire into the means by which these things can best be carried into practice, which shall be attempted in a future number.

To the Editor of the Bee.

The Solitary Philosopher, a living Character.

SIR,

AMONG all the variety of interesting pieces with which you weekly entertain your readers, none please me more than those anecdotes that relate to originality of character in particular individuals, and I am somewhat surprised that your philosophical correspondents have not favoured us with more frequent accounts of these

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uncommon personages, than they have done. You have yourself acknowledged, that one great design of your work is, to bring to light men of genius, or, in other words, persons who might otherwise have languished in obscurity, whose superior talents and studious researches enable them to be important members of society, and highly beneficial to their fellow creatures. But in what manner shall those proceed, who, though possessing much real genius, and valuable knowledge, are either unwilling, or being destitute of literary abilities, are unable to present themselves or their discoveries to the world through your paper. They must still remain in obscurity, if no assisting hand interferes; and except for the remembrance of a few friends, the world may never know that such persons ever existed. Give me leave, therefore, for once, to act the part of *introducer*, and present you with a short account of an original still in life.

On the side of a large mountain, about ten miles west from this place, in a little hut of his own rearing, which has known no other possessor these fifty years, lives this strange and very singular person. Though his general usefulness, and communicative disposition requires him often to associate with the surrounding rustics; yet having never had an inclination to travel farther than to the neighbouring village, and being totally unacquainted with the world, his manners, conversation, and dress are strikingly noticeable. A little plot of ground that extends round his cottage, is the narrow sphere to which he confines himself; and in this wild retreat, he appears to a stranger as one of the early inhabitants of earth, e'er polished by frequent intercourse, or united in society. In his youth, being deprived of the means of education, and till this hour a stranger to reading, the most valuable treasures of time are utterly unknown to him; so that what knowledge he has acquired seems to be from the joint exertions of vigorous powers, and an unwearying course of experiments.

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It is impossible, in the limited bounds of this paper, to give the particulars of all the variety of professions in which he engages, and in which he is allowed by the whole inhabitants around him to excel. His genius seems universal ; and he is at once by nature, Botanist, Philosopher, Naturalist, and Physician.

The place where he resides seems indeed peculiarly calculated for assisting him in these favourite pursuits. Within a stone's throw of his hut, a deep enormous chasm extends itself up the mountain for more than four miles, through the bottom of which a large body of water rages in loud and successive falls through the fractured channel, while its stupendous sides, studded with rocks, are overhung with bushes and trees, that meeting from opposite sides, and mixing their branches, entirely conceal, at times, the river from view ; so that when a spectator stands above, he sees nothing but a luxuriance of green branches, and tops of trees, and hears at a dreadful distance below the brawling of the river. In this vale or glen innumerable rare and valuable herbs are discovered ; and in the harvest months, this is his continual resort. He explores it with the most unwearied attention, climbs every cliff, even the most threatening and from the perplexing profusion of plants, collects those herbs, of whose qualities and value he is well acquainted. For this purpose, he has a large basket with a variety of divisions, in which he deposits every particular species by itself. With this he is often seen labouring home to his hut, where they are suspended in large and numerous parcels from the roof, while the sage himself sits smiling amidst his simple stores.

In cultivating his little plot of ground, he proceeds likewise by methods entirely new to his neighbours. He has examined by numberless strange experiments, the nature of the soil, watches every progressive advance of the grain, and so well is he provided for its defence against vermin, that they are no sooner seen

than destroyed. By these means he has greatly enriched the soil, which was by nature barren and ungenerous, while his crop nearly doubles that of his neighbours; the more superstitious of whom, from his lonely life, and success in these affairs, scruple not to believe him in league with the devil.

As a mechanic, he is confined to no particular branch. He lives by himself, and seems inclined to be dependent on none. He is his own shoe-maker, cutler, and taylor; builds his own barns, and raises his own fences; thrashes his own corn, and with very little assistance cuts it down. From his infancy, he has enjoyed an uninterrupted flow of health; but there is scarce a neighbouring peasant around, who has not, when wounded by accident, or confined by sickness, experienced the salutary effects of his skill.

In these cases his presence of mind is surprising, his applications simple, his medicines within the reach of every cottager; and in effecting a cure, he is seldom unsuccessful. Nor is his assistance in physic and surgery confined to the human species alone. Domestic and useful animals of every kind profit by his researches. He has been known frequently to cure horses, cows, sheep, &c. by infusing certain herbs among warm water, and giving them to drink. In short, so fully persuaded are the rustics of his knowledge in the causes and cure of disorders, to which their cattle are subject, that in every critical and alarming case, he is immediately consulted, and his prescriptions observed with the most precise exactness. I should arrogate too much to my own praise to say that I was the first who took any particular notice of this *solitaire*. He is known to many ingenious gentlemen in that part of the country, and has been often the subject of their conversation and wonder. Nor has the Honourable Gentleman whose tenant he is, suffered this rustic original to pass unnoticed or unbefriended; but with his usual generosity, and a love to mankind, that dignifies all his actions, has

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from time to time transmitted to him parcels of new and useful plants, roots, seeds, &c.; while the other shews himself worthy of such bounty, by a yearly specimen of their products, and a relation of the manner in which he treated them.

About six months ago, I went to pay him a visit along with an intimate friend, no less remarkable for a natural curiosity. On arriving at his little hut, we found, to our no small disappointment, that he was from home. As my friend, however, had never been in that part of the country before, I conducted him to the glen, to take a view of some of the beautifully romantic scenes, and wild prospects, that this place affords. We had not proceeded far along the bottom of the vale, when hearing a rustling among the branches above our head, I discovered our hoary botanist with his basket, passing along the brow of a rock, that hung almost over the centre of the stream. Having pointed him out to my companion, we were at a loss for some time, how to bring about a conversation with him: Having, however, a flute in my pocket, of which music he is exceedingly fond, I began a few airs, which by the sweetness of the echoes, was heightened into the most enchanting melody. In a few minutes this had its desired effect; and our little old man stood beside us, with his basket in his hand. On stopping at his approach, he desired us to proceed, complimented us on the sweetness of our music, expressed the surprise he was in on hearing it, and leaning his basket on an old trunk, listened with all the enthusiasm of rapture. He then, at our request, presented us with a sight of the herbs he had been collecting, entertained us with a narrative of the discoveries he had made in his frequent searches through the vale, which, said he, "contains treasures that few know the value of."

Seeing us pleased with this discourse, he launched forth into a more particular account of the vegetables, reptiles, wild beasts, and insects that frequented the

place, and with much judgment explained their various properties. "Were it not, says he, for the innumerable millions of insects, that in the summer months swarm in the air, I believe dead carcases, and other putrid substances might have dreadful effects; but no sooner does a carcase begin to grow putrid, than these insects, led by the smell, flock to the place, and there deposit their eggs, which in a few days produce such a number of maggots, that the carcase is soon consumed. While they are thus employed below, the parent flies are no less busy, in devouring the noxious vapours that incessantly ascend; thus the air by these insects is kept sweet and pure, till the storms of winter render their existence unnecessary, and at once destroy them. And heaven that has formed nothing in vain, exhibits these things to our contemplation, that we may adore that all bounteous creator, who makes even the most minute and seemingly destructive creatures subservient to the good of man.

In such a manner did this poor and illiterate peasant moralize on the common occurrences of nature; these glorious and invaluable truths did he deduce from vile reptiles, the unheeded insect, and simple herb, that lies neglected, or is trodden under foot as useless and offensive; and what friend to mankind does not, on contemplating this hoary rustic's story, fondly wish, with its writer, that learning had lent its aid to polish a genius, that might have one day surprised the world with the glorious blaze of a Locke or Newton.

I have nothing, Sir, to offer as an apology for the length of this paper, but the entertainment I hoped it might afford your numerous readers, and its truth, which is not unknown to a number of your respectable subscribers in this quarter, some of whom may perhaps favour you with more particulars respecting his discoveries, than can at present be given by

Paisley
February 26th 1791.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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To the Editor of the Bee.

Sir,

It would be deemed a very valuable acquisition by many of your readers, would some of your philosophical correspondents give a description of an electrical machine sufficiently powerful to melt a brass wire a hundredth of an inch thick, and to be as small, compact, and little expence as possible. I am, &c.

February 14. 1791.

W.

To the Editor of the Bee..

Sir,

I HAVE seen the first number of the Bee; and I, as well as my acquaintance here, promise ourselves much pleasure from a work of that kind, conducted by a gentleman of your known and approved abilities. I thank you for the early intimation you have given us of the new and important discoveries in Germany, respecting those calces, which have hitherto been deemed earths.

I am now in possession of a very cheap and easy process for separating the fossil alkali from Glauber's salt, without the intervention either of vegetable alkali, or barytes. Will you be so good as to give the following intimation in your extensively circulated publication; and if it fall within your plan, I will afterwards send you an account of the process, to be inserted in your periodical work.

"It has long been wished, that an easy way of separating the fossil alkali from Glauber's salt could be invented: We are informed, that the Reverend Mr. James Wilson A. M. of Stockport, is in possession of a process which does this completely without the aid of vegetable alkali or barytes. Yours &c. R. O."

Stockport

February 18th 1791.

† This communication will be highly acceptable. Ed.

Vol. II.

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Extract of a Letter to the Editor, containing farther Particulars respecting the Mangel Wurzel.

AFTER taking notice, that hares are very fond of the Ruta Baga, so as to have eaten a small patch of them almost entirely, he proceeds: "I experience the same inconvenience with my Scarcity Root, with this difference, that there is so much bulk of that, as to set them at defiance; and that by their size, there is not much trouble in burying a quantity of them, as I do potatoes, by which I last year kept them in use for my swine, till my early sown ones came in; and there remained so much solidity and sweetness in the roots from which I had reap'd the seed when ripe, that the hogs fought for them.

It is an argument much in favour of these roots, that they will be set to hoe at a time the farmers (here at least) are at a loss to employ their labourers, which will tend to prevent the great hurry at the season of turnip hoeing; so is their being attainable of such a size soon after mid-summer, (when our grass is usually burnt up), that an allowance of one hundred square-yards a night to ten cows, with very moderate grass in the day, kept them in full milk. I had this year as much Mangel Wurzel, as kept my cows till Christmas, and have a handsome stock buried for seed and for my swine in the summer; and notwithstanding I was unlucky in one parcel of my seed, which produced chiefly plants, with their crowns close to the ground, and roots with many fangs, instead of rising like the long pudding turnip, which they should do; and that I sowed part of them so late (for experiment), that they acquired but so small a size, as obliged me to feed them on the ground, for which this wet season has been very favourable; and withal, my labourers observed, that the same space of

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ON THE MANGEL WURZEL.

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ground lasted, upon the whole, much longer than it would have done of turnips; and my dairy-maid complained, when the cows came to good turnips, drawn on to a fresh Sainfoin inclosure, that they stunk of their milk. Having said thus much in praise of my favourite root, I must mention one alarm I received, which I am willing to attribute to the use of it, although Dr. Lettsom assures me he has not heard of the like from any other quarter, which is, that two of my young cows repeatedly dropped down suddenly, and had done so several days, before my yardman informed me of it. When the farrier came, he bled them, and found their blood very black. I asked him if he had ever met with a similar case; and he told me, that when Mr. Coke of Holkham gave his cows so many carrots, as brought all the hair off their skins, they were affected in the same manner. This convinced me, that the juices of both these roots are too rich to be used too freely, and I ordered my cows a peck of potatoes each every night and morning; and heard no more of their falling: but the week before the last, the same cows were affected in the same manner, after having eaten nothing but turnips and straw since Christmas day. How far this may clear Mangel Wurzel, in your mind, from the imputation of being *too good*, I know not; it will certainly make me cautious in my use of it alone, but I must find some weightier objection than I am yet aware of, before I abandon the culture of it. Notwithstanding my continued rage for potatoes and for vetches, and planting cabbages on the first ploughing after them; by which means, I can shew some land as clean as any which has been completely summer-tilled for turnips; and for young stock or croued sheep, the cabbages are very valuable; but for sweetness of cream, I have never yet met with any thing but natural grafs or potatoes to compare with Mangel Wurzel.

Sir,

Norfolk, }
Feb. 7, 1791. }

Your obedient servant,
M. M.

*Extracts from Whist, a Poem, just published.**Praise of Whist.*

LET all the games that ask but little skill,
 Loo, Commerce, Comet, Basses and Quadrille,
 Like twinkling stars that dimly gild the night,
 Shrink from the blaze of Whist's refulgent light;
 Nay more, let those that higher rank may claim,
 Let nice Piquette, and Ombre's studious game,
 (Though each has charms) the fruitless contest yield,
 And to the *first* sport resign the field.
 For which of these can boast the pow'r to bind,
 In chains of equal strength the captive mind,
 Can each, or all, such anxious thoughts inspire,
 Or with such ardour keen the spirit fire?
 Can they so much the loser's peace destroy,
 Or fill the winner's breast with equal joy?
 Can, at Piquette the *huitieme* and *quatorze*;
 Quadrille's triumvirate of *matadores*;
Fifteens at Cribbage, or the *pam* at Loo;
 With such extatic rapture bliss the view,
 As when at Whist, the firm quadruple band
 Of honoured chiefs enrich a single hand?
 Or, what is oft of more importance found,
 When strength of *cards*, with strength of *trumps*, is crown'd.

Let *Ombre* then amuse the sons of Spain,
 And still *Piquette* the Frenchman's game remain,
 Let *Brag* be left to Newgate's broken crew,
 To children *Commerce*, and to footmen *Loo*;
 While Briton, who to manly sense,
 To taste or breeding has the least pretence,
 His sportiv' hours, to *Whist* alone confines,
 And other pastimes all for this resigns.

March 9,

1791.

TO MR. URBAN.

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To the Editor of the Bee.

SIR,

THIS inclosed I many years ago tore out of a magazine, and have always intended sending it to some public paper. I am certain that it has been written by Dr. Johnson. I need not tell a judge like you that it is excellent. It has escaped all his collectors, and well deserves to be reprinted. I am, yours, &c. A. B.

To Mr. Urban, on his completing the eighteenth Volume of the Gentleman's Magazine.

ARTS, to complete what Nature but began,
First wrought the human savage into man;
Then gave him empire o'er the peop'd ball,
And bade the conqueror be the lord of all.
These taught him first to tame the bounding steed,
Bend the tough yew, and wing the pointed reed;
With speed and prowess not his own endu'd,
The strong he vanquish'd, and the swift pursu'd:
He mounts the chariot, and, at ease reclin'd,
Sees the gaunt lion lab'ring pant behind;
His missile weapon gives a distant wound,
And brings the vulture breathless to the ground:
Now, tenfold strength by *Mathesis* supply'd,
He cleaves the mountain, and he stems the tide;
This taught, for him, subservient seas to flow,
The stars to wander, and the winds to blow.

But while he rises thus from arts to arts,
Each step *Necessity* or *Chance* imparts;
Till, to entail the blessings on his kind,
Heav'n taught him Letters, and their powers assign'd:

This *Art*, alone descended from the skies,
Arrests *Ideas* living as they rise;
This, to late times preserved the sage's thought,
Reprov'd in secret, and in silence taught:

But *Science* still retir'd from public view,
And, though immortal, yet she liv'd for few:

Long, long her venerated page was rare,
 With labour copy'd, and preserv'd with care;
 Scarce a whole life, one transcript could produce,
 'The toil of *Poverty*, for *Grandeur*'s use:
 Till now, improving on the plan divine,
 Man bade *diffusive* truth in Printing shine;
 By this, the labour of a thousand years
 The perfect produce of a *month* appears.
 Now *Science* lurks no longer in the shade,
 To every eye is every thought displayed.

Ah! not to *Science* sacred is the art,
 Intruding *Error* proudly claims her part;
 Through the same medium *Falshood*'s colour'd play,
 And *Truth*'s *sublime* radiance gives unbroken day;
 The sophist quibbles with an air sedate;
 The sat'rist raves, and rhiming females prate;
 Here pious *Kempis* breathes seraphic fire;
 Here *Wilmot* rages with impure desire;
 Here *Newton* reasons, and *Des Cartes* dreams;
 Here *Morgan* lies, and *Muggleton* blasphemes.

How kind the hand, that, blest with friendly skill,
 Divides the mass, selecting good from ill;
 But yet repeated dainties cloy the mind,
 The tasteful least in *Novelty* we find.

For *Twice Nine Years* a constant treat to frame,
 Forever tasteful, as 'tis ne'er the same;
 Still with the *Wholesome* to unite the *New*,
 And bid the *Elegant* adorn the *True*,
 To teach, to please, to mend a letter'd age,
 This last refinement of the finish'd page;
 This, *Urban*, this is thy peculiar praise,
 No vain pretender to disputed bays.
 Still ev'ry Art, and every Muse unite,
 Still give at once improvement and delight;
 Still thrice four thousand shall impatient wait
 The sterling sense that's stamp'd with *St. John's Gate*,
 Long live! the plaudit of the wise to *feel*,
 While *Envy* yells unnoticed at thy heel.

March 9,

1791.

SIR JOHN SINCLAIR'S ADDRESS.

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Address to the Society for the Improvement of British Wool, constituted at Edinburgh, on Monday January 31, 1791, by Sir John Sinclair, Bart.

Our readers have been already informed of the nature and design of the patriotic society to which this address was delivered, and at whose request it was printed. Other particulars will be best learned from the address itself, which begins thus :

GENTLEMEN,

As it is proposed, on the anniversary of this day, that a regular account shall be drawn up of the progress made by the Society in the important object which it has undertaken, viz. that of improving, and it is to be hoped, of bringing to perfection, the most valuable production of which the country boasts, it may not be improper, on the first day in which we are assembled, to trouble you with some observations, tending to point out the many public advantages which may be derived from this institution. It is a circumstance which ought more particularly to be dwelt on, that, though the commerce of wool is the most ancient which history records, though in former times kings were shepherds, and females of the highest rank were anxious to display their dexterity at the distaff; and above all, though it is well known, that no country ever acquired great commercial opulence without carrying the manufacture of wool to a very high degree of perfection; yet, strange to tell, there is not in this, nor I believe in any other country in Europe, a single individual (M. D'Aubenton in France alone excepted) who has paid that attention to this important subject, to which it is so well entitled, or at least who has ever acquired such an universal theoretical and practical knowledge of it, as would be desirable. Particular breeds of sheep, if I may be allowed that expression, have been brought to great perfection in England, and indeed, in other countries, many individuals have shewn great knowledge of the natural history of this valuable animal, and have collected information re-

specting the different kinds which exist in various parts of the world. Much practical knowledge has also been acquired by shepherds tending their flocks, at different times and various places. In Spain a very curious system for the management of flocks, adapted to the peculiar nature of that country, has been formed: But as far as my information reaches, all the experiments which are necessary for precisely ascertaining the effects of climate, food, or management, have never been made, nor is there any work published upon this subject which can sufficiently guide the unskilful shepherd how to manage, and still more, how to improve the fleecy store with which he is intrusted.

This circumstance is perhaps owing to the prejudice, that in regard to sheep, climate is every thing, and that we are fighting against nature, when we attempt to bring the animals, or the productions of one country into another. This absurd and dangerous tenet cannot be too loudly reprobated. Were Great Britain at this moment confined to those particular articles which its soil naturally produced, many the most valuable productions of its fields, and almost all the productions of its gardens, would never have existed here, and this island could never have been able to have fed one half of its present inhabitants.

Indeed, so far is climate from being an objection, that its effects on that particular production which we wish to bring to perfection in this country, to wit, fine wool, has never yet been ascertained. Some people imagine that hot climates are those in which we are to expect it in the greatest perfection; and yet we cannot but acknowledge the great beauty and excellence of the wool produced on the cold and rugged shores of the Shetland islands, as appears from the specimens before us. Others imagine that the finest wool is to be expected from sheep which are perpetually kept wandering about in the open air, as is the case in Spain, and that confinement is ruinous: Whereas, on the other hand, it can be indisputably proved that the ancient Romans kept and fed their finest woolled sheep in houses, and even clothed them to make their wool more valuable. These, and other circumstances which might be mentioned, seem to render climate, though of some, yet undoubtedly of less essential consequence. For my own

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part, I have no doubt, that if a good breed of sheep is procured, and if they are put under a proper system of management, that we may grow in Scotland as much fine wool as the extent of the country will admit. I shall therefore restrict the observations with which I am now to trouble you, to the two heads of breed and management."

Sir John then proceeds to treat of breeds; but passing rapidly over other distinctions, he only dwells on the peculiarities respecting wool.

"Wool is considered by a most intelligent manufacturer*, as properly comprehended under two grand divisions, viz *combing* and *clothing* wool. A variety of sorts may be classed under each division; but under the one or the other, every kind of wool may be comprehended. The *combing* wool is distinguished by the length of its staple, and is peculiarly well calculated for stockings, worsted stuffs, and the like. It is universally acknowledged that this kind of wool has been brought to the greatest perfection in England. It is however becoming of less value every day. Those worsted stuffs in which women of all ranks were formerly clothed, have given way to silk, to linen, and to cotton†. Some new uses have been discovered for this species of wool; but it is already produced in such abundance, that any addition to the quantity, (particularly were a war at the same time to take place) would so much reduce its price, as to render it scarcely worth the attention of the farmer.

"The other species of wool known under the name of *short*, the carding or the clothing sort, is of a very different nature. Its staple is not so long, but the pile is finer; and instead of terminating, like the *combing* sort, in a point, is exactly of the same thickness from one end to the other. Hence

* Mr. Anstie of the Devizes.

† The *combing* wool is sometimes cut to pieces, and used in the manufacture of cloth. Perhaps it would be better to cut the fleeces of the long woolled sheep for that purpose twice or thrice a year, and to keep them in houses in bad weather; the expense of which, their manure, and the great quantity of wool they would produce, might repay. This at least would be worth the trial.

the hairs easily incorporate together, and the cloth acquires that firm texture so desirable in that species of goods. The sheep which produce this sort of wool are small, delight in an extensive range of pasture, and do not thrive in those narrow bounds with which the long woolled and large sized sheep are content. They were formerly to be found in those extensive commons in England, of which so many have been inclosed by the authority of the legislature, since the commencement of his present Majesty's reign. It is computed, that above a million of acres have been inclosed during that period; and if the same progress continues for some years to come, there will scarcely be a vestige of an extensive common in the southern parts of the island †. Unless therefore the clothing breed of sheep will thrive in the open and extensive pastures, which the northern parts of England, which Wales, and which Scotland furnish, Great Britain must every day become more and more dependent on foreign countries for the raw material of its important branch of manufacture. Now, therefore, is the time to try every necessary experiment for that purpose; not only for

“ † A very intelligent and respectable Gentleman has sent me the following account of the progress of this system in the western parts of England. It is only within these 40 years, that inclosing of commons began to prevail there; and before that took place, every farmer in the dry lands thought it his interest to attend to the fineness of the wool, whence his chief profit arose, and not to the size of the animal, the carcass being of so little value; that his fat sheep, even in the month of March, did not fetch above 3 d. a pound, instead of 4 d. its price at present. Soon after this period, the turnip and clover husbandry began to flourish, and the best farmers, encouraged by the better price for meat, began to think that their land might be turned to a more productive use, by introducing larger sized and more bony animals. The sheep of 8 lib. per quarter, producing 1 lib. of wool worth 1 s. 3 d. were, by procuring Dorsetshire rams, changed to 14 lib. per quarter, and gave 3 lib. of wool worth 2 s. 3 d. The difference of value between the two animals amounted to about 9 s. per head. Such large sized animals could not thrive upon the short grass which uncultivated commons produced. It became an object therefore to inclose and improve the commons; by which system of husbandry, the produce of the lands has been so exceedingly increased, that what was formerly common or sheep walks, is now generally let at 15 s. per acre, and the ancient inclosure of 7 s. value, is now let at 20 s. This accounts for the alteration in the quality of the wool; but the new system, in a national view, has produced the happiest consequences, by increasing the general wealth and produce of the country.

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the peculiar advantage of those districts of the united king-
doms above alluded to, but for the general interests of the
empire.

"It is the more necessary to attend to this circumstance, es-
pecially in Scotland, because any improvement of wool that
has been attempted here, has in general been by substitut-
ing the *combing* for the *clotting* sort, which, though well
adapted for particular parts of the country, is far from being
calculated for the whole kingdom. At this moment also,
sheep farming is beginning to extend itself to the most dis-
tant corners of the kingdom; but on principles which seem
to me to be of a very dangerous and noxious nature. The
value of that part of the country, and the rents of the lands,
have been greatly increased by these means. It is well
known, that in the space of 25 years, the income of an
estate in the Highlands has been raised from about 400 l.
to about 1800 l. a year, without any other improvement,
than merely converting it from cattle, into sheep farms.
The wool which it produces is nevertheless sold at the rate
of only 4½d. a pound. What an amazing addition would it
be to the value of that property, and of other estates in the
same situation, were the wool which they produced render-
ed four or five times more valuable. By attention and good
management, there is not the least doubt of obtaining this
desireable object."

He then takes notice of the most remarkable breeds of
sheep in England, Scotland and Spain, giving short charac-
teristical notices of each; and thus concludes this branch of
his subject.

"But, besides the breeds of England, it would be proper
for this Society to try what would be the effect of introduc-
ing into this island the sheep of foreign countries, for the
purpose of ascertaining the possibility of their thriving in
this kingdom, or of meliorating our breed*. If Arabia is

* "The foreign breed, from which I entertain the highest expectations,
are those which are to be found in the neighbourhood of Mount Atlas
in Africa, which, there is reason to be-
superior to the Spanish, and to a mixture with the Spanish based
itself in a great measure owes its excellence. That Sir
Robert Boyd, previous to his departure, took possession of the Government of Gibraltar, and made
his best endeavours to procure some of the best of the Soc-
iety,

to be ransacked for the improvement of our race of horses, why may not similar means be used for improving our breed of sheep? Many animals in different parts of the world produce various kinds of fine wool or fur, which, in consequence of the extended commerce and navigation of Great Britain, might be procured with little difficulty. These animals would probably thrive here, and furnish materials of the utmost consequence to our most valuable manufactures.

"To conclude this branch of the subject, I have no doubt, that by pursuing a regular system of experiments, it will soon be in our power to ascertain what kinds of sheep are the best calculated for the soil, the pasture, and the climate of this country, and the most likely to prove profitable to individuals, and useful to the state."

Under the second head, *management*, the respectable baronet brings under the view of the society, a great many important particulars, that have never yet been elucidated by experiment; and therefore recommends them as proper objects of attention. Among these he successively takes notice of *shearer*, *salt smearing* or *salving*. He then enters into various interesting calculations, which our limited bounds alone, prevent us from specifying; we shall barely mention, that he estimates the value of wool manufactured in Britain, and the labour employed on it, to make a total of about twenty millions.

"Is it then to be wondered at, that this manufacture should be considered as, in a special manner, entitled to the public attention? But, great as it is, I have no hesitation in saying, that I wish to see it still greater in itself, and more useful to the country. I shall, therefore, now proceed to trouble you with some observations, tending to point out the advantages which the public at large, and the woollen manufacture in particular, may expect to derive from an association, whose object is to bring the natural staple of these kingdoms to the greatest perfection of which it is susceptible."

"There are certainly no means by which the situation and circumstances of any country can be so easily and so rapidly improved, as by the union of a number of individuals for the attainment of particular objects. If government engages in any scheme of national improvement, the money allotted for the purpose, is in general improvidently expend-

March 9,

race of horses, improving our breeds of the world which, in consequence of Great difficulty. These furnish materials for manufactures. I have no doubt, experiments, it will be of sheep are the and the climate of profitable to in-

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ed ; the experiments necessary to be made, are either care- lessly tried, or wholly omitted ; and when the assistance of the public is withdrawn, the scheme perishes at once. Sin- gle individuals are equally incapable of carrying such plans into effect. Few people can afford the expence which these projects require, and there are still fewer who have knowledge, judgment, perseverance, and health, sufficient to bring them to perfection. Whereas a body of men, united for any particular object, can raise such sums of money, as may be necessary for the purpose, without any injury to their private fortunes ; they can mutually assist each other in procuring all the lights and information, that is requisite for attaining the object in view ; they can prosecute the scheme, without encroaching on the time which ought to be dedicated to their personal concerns ; they can persevere in any system which it is proper to pursue, much longer than would be in the power of any individual ; they can procure the assistance of other respectable bodies of men to aid them in their undertaking ; and can apply, if necessary, with a rational prospect of success, for the support of the public, and the protection of their sovereign. These are advantages which associations possess, for the acquisition of various ob- jects of great public importance ; but, above all, they are well calculated for bringing to perfection, a production nat- ural to this country, and for which in former times, it was deservedly famous. From various circumstances already hinted at, this production has unfortunately degenerated. To clear up the doubts respecting that degeneracy, which some intelligent and patriotic individuals may entertain, and to trace the nature and causes of it, would of itself be an important object of inquiry.

" Many peculiar advantages may also be derived from this institution. Through the medium of the friends and con- nections of the members, who would naturally become inter- ested in the success of the measure ; by publishing their pro- ceedings, a general knowledge on the subject of wool, and a spirit of enterprise and exertion, would be circulated over the whole kingdom. By means of the useful books publish- ed by the Society, the mode of managing sheep to the ut- most advantage, and the best practices, both foreign and domestic, would soon become generally known. Under the

patronage of such a Society, skilful individuals might be established in different parts of the kingdom, where the practice of stapling is unknown, by whose directions, the wool we have, might be greatly improved in value, merely by sorting the fleece according to the various qualities of which it is possessed. There are many intelligent and enterprising farmers, who, were they appointed corresponding members of such a Society, might easily be prevailed on to try many useful experiments, and to make the result of them public; by means of which, it might be proved, that fineness of wool was by no means incompatible with the other excellencies by which particular breeds of sheep are distinguished. The premiums distributed by the Society must have the happy effect of rousing a spirit of emulation and rivalry among those who may be benefited by them. Nor ought it to be omitted, that when such a Society has succeeded in one point, they may gradually extend their views to others of perhaps equal public importance; and that, when once the benefits of industry and exertion are clearly exemplified by the success of any number of individuals in a particular line, it is a circumstance which has a very important influence on the views and on the conduct of the rest of the community.

"On the whole, this is an enterprise which cannot be in any respect prejudicial; which can have no object in view but public good, and no possible consequence, but public benefit; and which, if it is properly supported by patriotic individuals, and by respectable bodies of men, must prove the source of successful industry, and of infinite wealth to ourselves and to our posterity."

An appendix is added, giving an account of the progress already made by this society, as formerly stated in this paper.

It must give pleasure to every well-informed member of the community, to see such a respectable body of men united in a cordial effort to promote an object of such great national importance.—May success attend their endeavours!

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1791. LETTER FROM DR. BLACK TO MR. LAVOISIER. 39

The following Letter will prove interesting to our chemical readers. It will form a sort of Epoch in the history of chemistry. Dr. Black has been one of the firmest supporters of the doctrine of Phlogiston, as taught by Stahl and the elder chemists.—He now departs from that system, and adopts that of Lavoisier and the French philosophers.—The letter is translated from the Journal de Paris, January 19, 1791.

Copy of a Letter from Dr. Joseph Black, Professor of Chemistry in the University of Edinburgh, to Mr. Lavoisier at Paris.

I AM much obliged to you, Sir, for having made me acquainted with your friend Mr. Terry and his son, for whom I have conceived the highest esteem. The young man appears to me to possess all the good qualities that his friends could wish: He has a distinguished talent for literature, genius and dispositions that will make him be beloved by others, and happy in himself. I hope he will entertain a good opinion of our university, and that it shall be well founded; and I have the confidence to believe, that it will derive much glory from our pupil.

Your letter, Sir, contains expressions so flattering, that there is danger of my becoming vain. I cannot find adequate words to express how much I am indebted to your goodness. Whatever was the merit you suppose in me, it has been amply recompensed by the approbation of your friendship, and that of your illustrious colleagues of the academy of sciences, who, in admitting me among them, have satisfied my most ambitious desires.

You have been informed, that in a course of lectures, I endeavour to make my disciples masters of the new chemical system which you have so happily invented, and that I begin to recommend it to them as more simple, more connected, and better supported by facts than the ancient system. How could I do otherwise? The numerous experiments, that you have so happily devised and executed at large, have been conducted with so much care, and such a scrupulous attention to all circumstances, that nothing could be more satisfactory, than the proofs you have obtained. The system which you have founded on these facts, is so intimately connected with them, so simple, and so intelligible, that it cannot fail to be more and more approved, as it comes to be better known, and to be finally adopted by a great number of chemists, who have been long habituated to the ancient system. It must not be expected, that all will be convinced: You know well, that habit enslaves the minds of the most part of mankind, and makes them believe and revere the greatest absurdities. I must ingenuously avow to you, that I myself have experienced

its effects. Having been accustomed, for thirty years, to believe and to teach the phlogistic doctrine, at it was understood before the development of your system, I, for a long time, experienced an extreme repugnance to the new system, which represented, as an absurdity, that which I had hitherto regarded as sound doctrine. Nevertheless, that repugnance, which proceeded entirely from the force of habit, hath gradually diminished, overcomes by the clearness of your demonstrations, and the solidity of your plan. Although there are some particular facts, the explanations of which appears to be difficult; I am convinced, that yours is much better founded than the ancient doctrine.

But if the power of habit prevents some among the older chemists from approving your ideas, the young students, who are not influenced by the same power, range themselves universally on your side. We have the experience of it in this university, where the students enjoy the most perfect liberty in the choice of their scientific opinions. They embrace, in general, your system, and begin to adopt your new nomenclature. As a proof of this, I send you two of the inaugural dissertations, for which chemical subjects had been chosen. These dissertations are written entirely by the students; the professors have no part in them. We read them, before they are printed, to see that there are no faults in them, and to offer our advice in case of finding any. Sometimes, we meet with exaggerated compliments to ourselves, which we have not always the modesty or the discretion to reject. The professors of Edinburgh ought to be pardoned for these precautions respecting their regulation, seeing it procures for them a recompence more solid than aurek.

Accept a thousand thanks for the different volumes you have published, and with which you have honoured me. I cannot make to you a similar return; but I will use the freedom to send to you, sometime hence, a short dissertation not yet complete, upon the water of certain boiling springs in Ireland, that contain felicitous petrifications. The hope you give, that I may one day have the pleasure of seeing you here, is very pleasing; but such events are too much within the power of fortune to permit one who has had much experience, to reckon upon it as nearly certain.

I wish a happy conclusion to the revolution in your country, and am, with the highest esteem, &c.

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THE BEE,

OR

LITERARY WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER,

FOR

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16. 1791.

A new and easy Method of forcing early Potatoes.

BEING desirous to have some potatoes pretty early in the season, I caused a bed of new horse dung to be made up in the month of February, in the way that is usually practised for bringing forward cucumbers or early annuals. Upon the surface of this bed, was spread about the depth of an inch of common mould; and when it had attained a due degree of temperature, potatoes were planted upon the surface of the mould all over the bed, close beside one another, like eggs in a hen's nest and then covered with mould to the depth of about six inches. In this state, without glasses, or covering of any sort, except a little loose straw for about ten days at first, the bed was allowed to remain, till some of the stems of the potatoes were observed coming through the mould at top, when it was judged proper to transplant them into the field where they were to remain and perfect their crop;—a mode of forcing potatoes very common in this country.

On beginning to take up these potatoes for the purpose of being transplanted, I had occasion to remark a phenomenon that was new to me. A great number of young potatoes were found sticking

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in clusters round the parent bulbs, by a mode of generation seemingly very different from any thing I had ever known to take place with regard to that plant. You may probably have remarked, that when potatoes are reared in the usual way, from bulbs planted for seed, the stem first sprouts out at the eyes. From the bottom of this stem roots spring forth, which increase in size as the plant advances in growth, by which the plant absorbs its nourishment. A considerable while after the plant has begun to vegetate, another set of fibres begin to spring out from the bottom of the stem also. These are at first of a whitish colour, and do not divaricate at the points like the real roots, and spread to a less or greater distance according to the kind of potatoe employed. On this set of fibres the potatoes are always produced, appearing at first like small knots, which gradually increase in size, and assume their proper form, each potatoe adhering to these fibres by a particular kind of eye, which, in those potatoes that assume a long shape, is usually placed at one end, which, for the most part, is thicker than the other. This set of fibres, from the analogy they bear to the umbilical cord in animals, I would denominate *umbilical* fibres, and the eye by which the potatoe adheres to them, may also be distinguished by the name of the *umbilical eye*.

In the particular case, however, that I now describe, this economy of the plant seems to be altered and deranged. Instead of the stem and the roots being the earliest productions, the young bulbs themselves first appear; and these, for the most part, adhere so close to the parent bulb, as to appear like warts or excrescences upon itself; but upon a nearer investigation, it appears, that they always adhere to the potatoe by means of a small fibre that springs out from it. I have seen some of these fibres two or three inches in length, and by that means was enabled to observe the mode of vegetation followed in this case, which was thus :

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The fibres producing these bulbs, spring out from the eye of the potatoe, and adhere to the parent bulb, exactly in the same manner as the stem usually does; in other words, that fibre is a stem. From the bottom of that fibre or stem, where it adheres to the potatoe, a set of roots spring out exactly in the same manner as in the ordinary progress of vegetation; but instead of spiring up as a *small stem*, it assumes a bulbous form, in every respect resembling a potatoe in its form, in its eyes, and other particulars. This young potatoe continues to increase in size for some time; but at length it begins to push out sprouts, which resemble the young stems of an ordinary potatoe, and which, if suffered to remain, become stems in every respect the same, as if the potatoe had vegetated in the usual way; at the bottom of which stems spring forth, *roots* properly so called, and umbilical fibres, bearing their fruit precisely in the same way as if none of the bulbs above described had been produced.

I am inclined to believe, that the young bulb has always attained its full size before the stem begins to appear; but this I cannot positively say. It is, however, very certain, that it does not increase in size, after the stem has pushed out above ground; but from that period remains unaltered, a mere seemingly useless excrescence.

It deserves to be farther remarked, that though the stem *itself*, when it springs out from this kind of bulb, exactly resembles that of a potatoe, yet the way in which it rises from the bulb itself, appears to be a good deal different from that which springs from an ordinary potatoe planted for seed. In the last case, it has been already said, the stem always springs from an eye, and roots very soon appear at the bottom of the stem, both stem and roots being very easily separable from the potatoe, without any violent fracture. In the other case, the stem seems to push out from the substance of the potatoe itself, in the same manner that the stem of a turnip rises from the bulb; and when broken off, makes a violent

fracture: nor do any roots spring out from that part of the stem, which rises out of this new sort of bulb, the roots being all produced at the place where the original stem sprung out from the parent potatoe. In short, this bulb appears to be nothing else, in the advanced state of vegetation of the plant, but an excrescence on the stem.

These excrescences, however, if separated from the plant in due time, have the appearance, the taste, and apparently every other quality of young potatoes; and as they sometimes attain to a considerable size, there is no doubt but young potatoes may be thus reared for the table, at a much more early period than can otherwise be had, and at a much smaller expence.—At the time I transplanted my potatoes, which was from the 5th till the 15th of May, I gathered a considerable quantity of these young potatoes, (some of which were of such a size, as to weigh more than three ounces a-verdupois), which I sent to my friends, as presents of great curiosity. Those that were too small for use, I allowed to be planted with the parent bulb; the large ones were separated, and the old bulbs from which they had been taken, were planted with the others, and made as good seed as if they had not been touched.—All of them produced a very good crop of early potatoes in the open ground, which were ready much sooner than those that were not forced.

The small price at which very early potatoes sell for in this place, made me not think it an object of importance to rear them for the market here; so that I have not repeated the experiment, and of course have not had an opportunity of remarking the circumstances that tended to augment or diminish the produce of this kind of crop. In general, it appeared probable to me, that the phenomenon might be produced by the cold above checking the vegetation occasioned by the heat below: But whether this is the case, or what are the precise degrees of cold or heat that are useful or hurtful, I

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1791. ON FORCING EARLY POTATOES. 45

had no opportunity of ascertaining. No *severe* frosts occurred while the potatoes were in the bed; or I should have thought it necessary to have covered them up with straw.

One circumstance occurred in this experiment, that ought not to be overlooked. It chanced, that some of the potatoes that were planted on the hotbed were cut, though the greatest part of them were whole. Most of the cut potatoes were entirely rotted by the heat of the bed, while very few of the whole ones were hurt in the smallest degree. The potatoes planted, were also in general, of the size of a hen's egg, or upwards.

As the practice of *forcing* potatoes, somewhat after the manner above described, has been long followed about London and other large cities, I am persuaded the phenomena above described, must have occurred to many persons before I observed it; but I never heard the least hint of any thing of the sort.

I beg leave farther to remark, that the *kind* of potatoes I employed in the experiment above recorded, was a large round early potatoe, of a dirty whitish colour, known in this neighbourhood, by the name of *manuel* potatoe. I think it necessary to specify this circumstance, because I am well aware that different kinds of potatoes possess qualities extremely different from each other; so that it is very possible, the same phenomena might not occur with another kind of potatoe. I have heard of another kind of potatoe, which put out roots from every joint of the stem when it was laid down and covered with earth, and thus yielded a great crop: But though I have several times tried the experiment with a variety of kinds, I have never met with one that possessed that quality. In matters of this sort, it is impossible for an experimenter to speak with too much caution or precision.

The figures in the annexed plate will serve to give a clearer idea of this peculiarity in the economy of the potatoe, than can be conveyed by words alone.

Explanation of the Figures on the Plate.

FIG. 1. represents a parent potatoe, with three young ones, produced in the manner above described, adhering to it. In this case, the stems by which the young bulbs adhere to the parent stock, are so short as not to appear. The eyes of the young bulbs are completely formed, and the germ of the young stalk just beginning to appear. Some of the roots which spring out at the place where the stem springs from the parent bulb, have already shot out to a considerable length.

Figure 2. represents another old potatoe, with a cluster of young ones, of a small size, adhering to it. In this example, the stems have advanced so far, as to have been nearly penetrating the surface of the earth.

Figure 3. represents another potatoe, with a young bulb and a stem produced from it, considerably advanced above ground. In this case, all the parts are distinctly seen, and this peculiarity in vegetation is completely developed.

A represents the stem springing out as usual, from an eye in the parent bulb, with roots spreading out from it in abundance. All these roots are merely absorbents, none of the umbilical fibres having yet made their appearance.

At a small distance from the potatoe, a bulb is formed upon this stem, which, before the upper stem sprung out from it, resembled the young potatoes in figure 1st.

At C, a new stem has sprung out from an eye in the young potatoe; but here we discover no roots similar to those which are always to be found at the bottom of the stem, where it springs from the original potatoe.

B and D represent eyes in this little potatoe, with the germ of young stem buds peeping out from them, which, as is usual in every kind of potatoe, are checked in their growth by the luxuriance of the principal stem.

March 16,

Plate.

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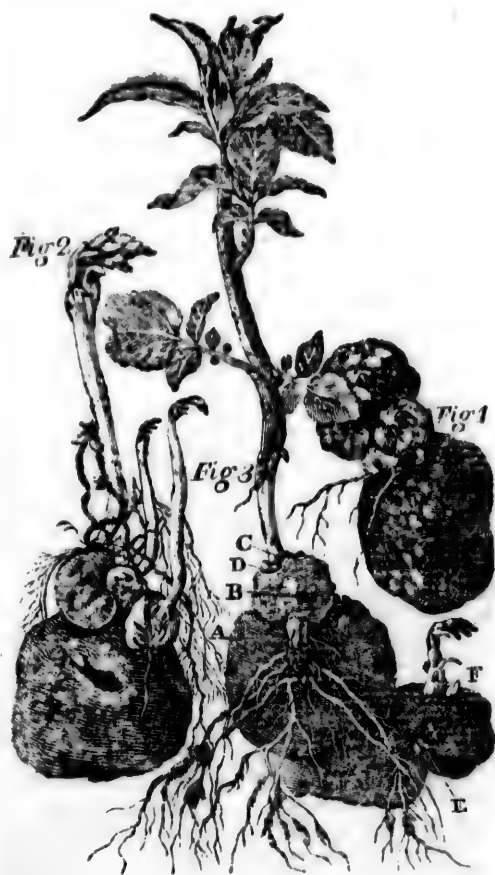
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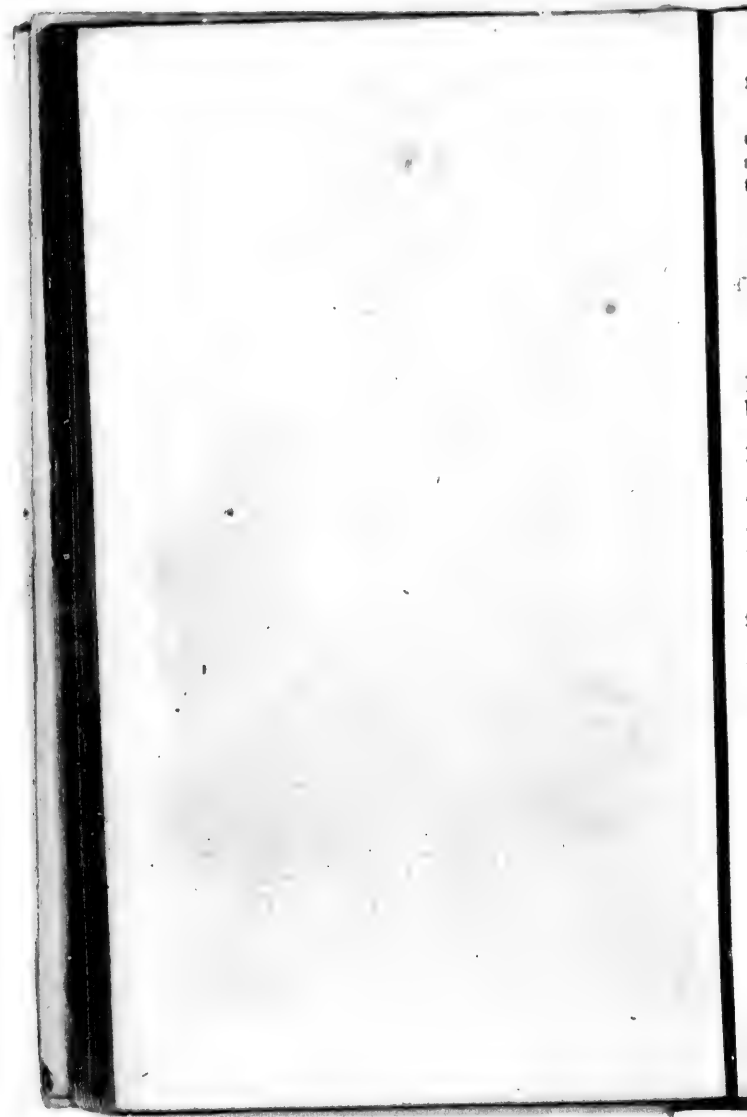
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On another part of this parent potatoe, is seen two other young potatoes adhering to it; in one of which, at F, the stem is beginning to advance.—At E, are the germs of stems not so far advanced.

To the Editor of the Bee.

A Crust for the Jokers.

SIR,

I ALWAYS lov'd a good smart and innocent jest; but, believe me, I am far from always liking a joker.

"Is not this something like loving the treason, and hating the traitor?"

By no means; the man who now and then entertains the company with a jest, is as different from a common joker, as a good free hearted girl is from a common prostitute.

"That is a bold assertion."

No bolder than it is true. But to illustrate the position.

There are various sorts of *professed jokers*. To mention *three* of the principal, however, will serve our purpose at present.

I shall begin with the *wholesale* joker, who endeavours to turn almost *every thing*, however serious in its nature, into laughter; lies in wait for opportunities to say *good things*, tells funny stories, in which he *stretches* the strings of probability; and though he means no harm, and perhaps seldom means any thing, would, rather than *lose his joke*, risk the loss of his friend. This, I take it, is no very respectable character.

The next in rank is, the *retail* joker, who *deals out* jests as the gentry of Monmouth Street do clothes; tells old stories which he vouches to be new ones; having himself *been present* (as he *himself* says) when the

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jokes he mentions took place. This is an engrosser of conversation, a waster of time;—an *echo* twenty times repeated in the ear of a man whose head aches, is not more tiresome than such a fellow.

But there is a third sort, whom I term the *mischievous* joker. One of the most innocent of these is generally enough to make a company unhappy, by making up some lie or other, which, if believed, must be productive of painful sensations, and then laughing at the credulous hearers (as being *taken in*) for having had too good an opinion of his veracity. Another set of these *risible* gentle folks cloak their affronts under the name of jokes; and while they pretend to *raillery*, the *true spirit* of which they do not, nor *will not* understand, sport with the characters alike of the present or absent, tell *disagreeable truths*, with which they have no business, and frequently frame lies calculated to expose people to *contempt*; and when the matter comes to an *eclaircissement*, nobody must be angry, for the party was but in *joke*.

I remember seeing one of these facetious gentleman brought rather into a disagreeable situation by the exercise of his talent, where it was not relished. He had very dexterously delivered of twins, the sister of an officer (a widow lady) that had been ill of a *dropsy*; and had said many good things upon the occasion. He had also, with the same dexterity, made her brother quarrel often about this circumstance, and afterwards refuse a challenge. He embellished his discourse with many jests upon *big bellies* and *red coats*, and had nearly finished, when the officer in question (who was unknown to him) entered the room. The officer seemed highly pleased with his conversation, and, winking to the company, desired him to repeat many of the good things he had said. Afterwards he declared himself her *brother*, and very coolly begged to be excused "for spoiling a good story by inquiring into the truth of it;" but this he said he must be informed of. The wit immediately

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ON JOKERS.

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recanted every syllable, and declared he was only in
jest; but the military man protested, "he did not like
such jests, nor would he excuse them." Apologies
were offered, but not accepted; and the joker got a
good *caning* in return for his wit and ingenuity, which
made him act some very clever capers, to the great en-
tertainment of the company. Will any one pretend to
deny that he had his reward?

Now, as this *species* of beings are at the very head
of the genus of *modern* jokers, can any wise and reason-
able man be partial to persons of such a description?

On the Corn Laws.

Part Third.

In our preceding disquisitions it has been proved, 1st,
That a bounty on corn exported may be useful, if put
under proper regulations; and 2d, That the rate of
that bounty ought not to be fixed, but that it ought to
vary in some measure, according to the selling price in
the home market at the time. We now proceed to in-
quire into the most eligible mode to be adopted for as-
certaining the prices that are to regulate the importa-
tion of corn, in a country so circumstanced as Britain
is.

This is perhaps the most difficult part of our inquiry;
and as the question never yet has obtained a fair dis-
cussion, the natural difficulty of the case is greatly aug-
mented by the ideas that have prevailed in consequence
of inaccurate notions that have been rashly obtruded on
the public concerning it.

In every country the prices of grain will vary in
different parts of it, owing to a diversity of circum-
stances. In some districts, the average price of the

same kind of grain will be permanently higher than in others. Hence originates the first difficulty.

Hitherto it has happened that those who have treated of the corn laws, generally reason as if they thought the price of grain an arbitrary thing that might be raised or depressed at pleasure; and hence they have always attempted to adopt such regulations, as in their opinion, would tend to bring the prices to be always the same in every part of the country. On this principle, the same rate of bounty has been extended to all places, and the same price has been adopted in every district, for regulating the exportation and importation of corn.

If our reasoning in the foregoing pages was well founded, this rule must be erroneous and unjust. For if the average price for which corn can be reared by the farmer, ought to be the rule for regulating the traffic in grain, the rate of price for opening or shutting the ports, ought to be different in every different place, according as the average price varies.

For example, it appears from the Gazette account, that the average price of wheat in the following counties for many years past, has been, in Norfolk about 21. 1 s. 10d. Stafford 21. 12 s., and Cumberland 21. 10 s. It follows then, that if we were to have a perfect corn law, the price for regulating the opening or shutting the port, which should always be the average price at the place, should be different in each of these counties.

This idea, however demonstratively just, has never yet been adopted, either by the legislature, or thought of by the people at large; and by losing sight of this idea, in pursuit of a chimerical object that never can be obtained, they have been led into a train of embarrassing regulations that only tend to perplex the subject, and give rise to frauds and abuses of various kinds.

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1791. ON THE CORN LAWS.

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that that average price is regulated by circumstances in a great measure beyond the immediate reach of the law, will not be difficult to prove: and if this be proved, it ought to follow that this futile attempt ought in future to be abandoned.

If the soil of a particular part of the country be naturally poor and unproductive, the expence of rearing a crop there will be greater than in one that is more fertile. It of course follows, that unless the average price be so high as to repay the farmer the whole expence necessary for rearing the corn there, he must abandon the culture of it in that place. If therefore the farmer in the district A, suppose, cannot rear wheat unless he gets 48 s. per quarter for it on an average, it will be a vain attempt to try by law to bring it there to 44 s.; for, should the farmer find he can get no more than 44 s., he must cultivate less corn, and convert his fields to some other use; but if he rears less corn than to supply the demand, the price will rise; and in consequence of this want at home, the prices may be raised at times to an enormous rate, according to the circumstances in foreign markets, and accidents of various sorts.

Nor is it only where fields are too poor and unproductive that the prices of corn must necessarily be higher than in some other circumstances. The same effect may be produced in consequence of a directly opposite cause, supereminent degree of richness and fertility; for as poor lands must be pastured by sheep or cattle, because they cannot afford the expence of being converted into corn fields, so very rich lands cannot be applied to the culture of corn, because greater returns from them can be obtained by feeding sheep or cattle upon them. Hence the rich vales of Gloucester, and many other of the most fertile districts in England, cannot produce corn, unless that corn be sold at a very high price. And hence it is that we find the price of corn is nearly the same in the fertile county of Not-

tingham as in Derbyshire. The price of corn therefore, of the *native produce* of every district, can neither be permanently raised nor lowered by political regulations. It is determined by natural causes, that cannot be arbitrarily overruled. The utmost that can be done is, to encourage an abundant production, by providing a ready market for grain at all times in every place, at the price it can be afforded for by the farmer there. This and this alone may in time alter the average price of grain in any district, as I shall take occasion to shew at some future period*.

Upon these principles, the propriety of abandoning that perplexed system of taking the average prices in towns, or counties, or districts, great or small, in every part of Britain, and of allowing an exportation or importation in each of these, whenever the price rises to the same rate, is impolitic and unjust, and of course ought to be abandoned.

In its stead, we have it in our power to adopt a rule that is at the same time so simple as can never be mistaken; so certain in its operation, as to be liable to no interruption in any case; and so equitable, that it adapts itself with the most perfect accuracy to the present circumstances of every part of the country, in every possible situation of things; nor can it ever be liable to abuse of any sort. But though all these things are equally certain and unavoidable, as that the shadow must accompany the body when the sun shines, and lengthen and shorten according to the elevation of that great luminary, I do not expect that *at the present time* this idea will be adopted either by the legislature of this country, or the people at large. I proceed to explain.

* I am aware that some persons will imagine that rent enters in some measure into the constituent price of grain; but I shall afterwards have occasion to shew that this is a fallacious notion, which I here pledge myself to do.

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ON THE CORN LAWS.

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The average prices of corn have, for many years past, been ascertained by law all over England, and returns made to London twice a week. These prices are published regularly in the gazette.—Were this average rate, thus ascertained, to be made the sole rate for regulating the importation and exportation rate over all England, all the benefits above enumerated, would necessarily result from it. By this rule, if adopted, it would naturally happen, that the regulating price would be a little higher than the medium rate in those counties, where the price is lowest.—These are, and, for the reasons assigned in part 1st, ever must be, maritime counties. The consequence would be, that when exportation from thence was not permitted, though the prices were, in these counties, so low, as that by the average of these cheap counties, it would at present be permitted; they would then find, that the best market for their grain would be those counties of this country, where the prices are commonly high: grain would therefore, be sent *coastways* from the cheap counties to those places, till they had nearly enough of it. The prices in the dear districts would, of course, decrease; and those in the cheap counties be prevented from falling;—and the average of the whole kingdom would, in years of plenty, fall, at length, so low, as to permit exportation to other countries.—A market is thus opened for the superfluous grain, and for the superfluous part of it only.—If it fell still lower, the bounty would begin to operate; and corn would be sent abroad, at that time, from these plentiful counties; but none could go out from those places where corn is scarcer, and consequently higher, as the high price at home (in these counties) would not admit of an exportation from thence, unless the rate of bounty were higher than the average prices at the time would admit.—Thus is relief given to those parts only, which have occasion for it; and no damage is sustained, but the reverse, by those who have no use for it.

Other illustrations of this might be given; but, in this short abstract, it is presumed, what has been said, will be sufficient to prove the beneficial effects of the regulation proposed.

I shall only observe, that nothing could be better calculated, than this simple and obvious measure for checking those abuses that have been so prevalent, where *particular* markets were to regulate the importation rate. An individual, in consequence of particular manoeuvres or connivance, may, in many cases, influence a particular market. Here so many markets are concerned, that no one individual could have influence, in any case, to a sensible degree on the average price. The operations go steadily on like the laws of nature; and no human sinister influence can over-rule them.

By making the gazette prices the rule for regulating the custom-house operations in every place, no undue advantage could be taken of accidental and temporary rises or depressions of price. The rate of the bounty allowed, should always be regulated by the rate of the last gazette that is in the hands of the custom-house officer of every port, at the time the grain was shipped. If a variation of price took place during the time a cargo was loading, the bounty should vary also, on the different parcels shipped under each of the prices*. But a provision should be made, that if a ship had begun to load, while the prices were so low, as to admit

* *E. g.* Suppose a ship began to load, when the rate of bounty was 5 s. per quarter, and proceeded to load at that rate till she had got an hundred bolls on board. The price during this time, we shall suppose, rises, so as to reduce the rate of bounty to 4 s.: the owner of the cargo would, in this instance, draw 5 s. bounty for an hundred bolls, and 4 s. bounty for the remainder of the cargo. Any other case, from this example, may be exactly understood. Thus would philosophical precision be attained; but perhaps it would be more agreeable to the practical, as being more simple, to decree, that the rate of bounty, allowable at the time the cargo begins to be loaded, should continue till the whole cargo was completed; and this could make no sensible difference to the public.

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ON THE CORN LAWS.

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of exportation, that vessel should be permitted to com-
pleat her loading, even, if during the time of shipping
it, the prices should rise above the exportation rate,
as no harm of any consequence could result from this
small indulgence; and with this regulation, it does not
appear, that ever a case could occur that would give
room for dispute, or that could operate as a hardship
on any class of men, or individual whatever.

From the forgoing induction we are led to perceive,
that nothing can tend so much to make the corn laws
produce their salutary influence in the highest degree,
as to give the fullest scope to the internal traffic in
grain through the country itself; and with that view,
not only should every restraint be removed from the
shipping and transporting of corn coast-wise on all oc-
casions, but also encouragement should be given for
opening canals, and making roads in every proper case.
It is in this way only, that the superfluous produce of
one district, can find its way to another where it is more
wanted, so as to confer upon it a perpetual abundance.
It is by the assistance also of canals and good roads
alone, that the inhabitants of barren districts can be
enabled in many cases, to avail themselves of the natu-
ral advantages of their situation to the fullest extent;
so as to be able to afford with ease, the small advance
of price in the grain that they must pay. No man can
fully compute the benefits that result to a community
from this circumstance, and it is to be regretted, that the
legislature, and the community at large, never seem as
yet to have viewed it as of one tenth part of the con-
sequence it really is. The time approaches, when men's
eyes shall begin to be opened a little to this object.
When it comes to be fully understood, the state of
this country will then be so much meliorated as to ex-
ceed belief *.

* In every inquiry on the corn laws that I have seen, the corn trade
of the United Provinces has been mentioned, and general inferences
drawn from peculiar facts respecting it, that could be by no means

The foregoing observations are general, and serve to establish fundamental maxims on this branch of civil polity, that may be applied in every case. In our future disquisitions on this subject, we shall find it necessary to take notice of circumstances that are more local, and though perhaps as interesting to individuals, not so generally applicable to the whole.

To the Editor of the Bee.

*Letter from Dr. Coventry, Professor of Agriculture in
Edinburgh, on the Swedish Turnip.*

SIR,

I WAS honoured yesterday with your note; I reckon myself particularly unfortunate in never having received your letter, with Sir Thomas Beevor's, from the penny-post. The loss of your obliging communication gives me the more regret, because, while you entertained the idea of its having reached me, and at the same time received no due return, you would be ready to think me unpardonably negligent.

I conclude from the extract at the end of the first number of the BEE, that you meant to let me know, that Sir Thomas had referred to me for information, respecting the state in which I found the remains of his crop of Swedish turnip at Hethel, about the beginning applicable to other countries.—None of these writers have sufficiently adverted to two circumstances, that render the commerce of corn in Holland very different from that of every other European country.—The first is the unequalled facility of transporting grain from every part of the country to another, by means of its canals.—The other is the great facility with which the country can be supplied with corn, on one hand from the sea, in common with every other maritime country, and on the other hand, from the countries behind, by means of the large rivers that pass through her territories. When one of these sources of supply is accidentally stopped, the other remains open, so that it is scarcely possible for her to experience the same risk from untoward circumstances as other maritime powers. Were it not for this circumstance, what would become of Holland, if a maritime power of superior strength should block up for years together the entry of the Texel, supposing no other entry were open?

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of September last. Indeed, on the supposition that some additional information might be expected from me, I once intended to transmit to you a few thoughts on the culture and economical application of these turnips, which seem to be only a variety of Sir Thomas's old favourites, the turnip-rooted cabbages. However, as the accurate statement by Sir Thomas, could not acquire more influence from any thing that I could say, and as my time was entirely filled up by another business, I delayed troubling you with any observations. It will give me much pleasure at all times, to give any assistance in my power, to extend information, or to excite to inquiry respecting any useful point; and if, in my present situation, I can be of the smallest use to you, you may freely command my services.

In consequence of what you mention respecting the Swedish turnip in the Bee, several people have inquired at me of the duration of the plant. Some have been apt to think, that the freshness of the bulbs, after the seed has been perfected on the stems, was such, as to leave them fit for the food of cattle. But should any person let the crop remain in the ground till the seed was collected, and then think of using the roots in this way, they would undoubtedly be disappointed. Sir Thomas Beavor, indeed, and your other friend, found some of them so fresh that they could be prepared and brought to table, and I ate a part of what I saw with the former of these gentlemen, near Norwich. Yet the skins were generally much shrivelled, and the fibrous part of the bulbs, immediately under the rhind, had become very hard, so that I scarcely think cattle would eat them with any advantage. The only objection against the use of this variety of the turnip-rooted cabbage, is the hardness of the roots, and I apprehend, that were the skins withered at the same time, cattle would not relish them. The proper conclusion which farmers should draw from the information which you give them in the Bee, is,

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that this plant bids fair to become the most certain and also the most generally useful green forage, in the spring, yet discovered. If the bulbs have been found succulent in the beginning of September, they were certainly more so four months earlier, in the beginning of May. By the bye, I am sorry it did not occur to me to examine some circumstances respecting the roots at Hethel more accurately than I did; for, from some later observations, I have reason to think, that in particular plants, small sprouts, or stems apparently insignificant, growing beside the principal stem, will preserve the moisture in the root to a very late period. This may have been the case with the plants which we examined. This I only hint to you, that you may satisfy yourself by farther inquiries. It would be a pity that husbandmen misapprehend of themselves, or be misled by our mistakes.

Edinburgh }
Feb. 3, 1791. }

Your obedient servant,
A. COVENTY.

To the Editor of the Bee.

The Critic criticised.

Sir,

THE writings of Shakespear, like fine gold, the more strictly they are analyzed, will only be the more esteemed. In the critique on Othello, your correspondent has found fault, very unjustly, with the character of Emilia; but he should have considered, Shakespear copied his characters from real life, and did not design to draw the imaginary character formed by some college pedant, ignorant of real life. The character of Emilia, as drawn by Shakespear, is that of an honest

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waiting maid, who had a real attachment for a very kind indulgent mistress; and I hope this is no imaginary character: But Emilia is married to a black intriguing rogue, who had art enough to cover his wicked designs from her; so he entices her to steal her mistress's handkerchief for him. Perhaps, had he proposed to her to steal a single dollar from her mistress, she would have shuddered at the thought: But an old handkerchief seemed a thing of so little value to her mistress, who perhaps had often given her things of ten times that value; and this, with the earnest solicitations of her husband, hid the turpitude of the action from her view. But then she was present, when Othello challenged his wife for the loss of his present, which he had recommended to her care. Perhaps both Emilia and her mistress * might think this a ridiculous whim of his; but none of them, I dare say, ever dreamed of the consequence. Let us now suppose Emilia uttering a soliloquy by herself after this conference; we may well suppose her saying to herself, Well I perceive now how far I was in the wrong, to suffer myself to be tempted to steal my mistress's handkerchief: How fain would I have discovered the fault, when I saw Othello make so much ado about it, and use her so harshly. But then the consequence would have been fatal, had I told I stole the handkerchief at the instigation of my husband. He has his whole dependence on the moor; both of us would have been turned off with disgrace, as neither of us could ever have been trusted after; whereas, at the

* We cannot agree with our critic here, respecting Desdemona at least.—Perhaps female sensibility is in no particular more sensibly alive, than in preserving, with the most scrupulous care, presents from a beloved object. She would feel the loss of the handkerchief most sensibly; and the high value she put upon it herself would make her think it natural, that Othello should impute a similar value to it. It was because of her love to him, that she preserved it. She would think it would look as if that love were abated, that she had become so careless about it, as to lose it. *Edit.*

most, it will only be a short ruffel between them; for it is impossible a man of his sense can let such an idle whim get the better of the affection I know he has for his wife: But sure there is some magic in the handkerchief; for I think my Iago was as much out of his senses about it, as the Moor himself: I shall take better care how I touch any thing that does not belong to me for the future. But when, by her discourse with the Moor, after the death of her mistress, all Iago's black designs were unravelled to her, and she saw he had made her his accomplice in the murder of a mistress she tenderly loved, her just resentment got the better of all her prudential reasons; for what honest person would not lend a hand to bring such a wretch to the punishment he deserved, without any regard to relationship? Now, what is unnatural in all this; I can see nothing but what is very natural in Shakespear's character of Emilia: but Shakespear plainly couples two moral reflections under his characters of Emilia and Iago. In the first, that honest people should beware of every appearance of evil; for they know not what consequences a fault, that seems little, may lead to: And in the other, that dishonest people should beware how they trust themselves to the devil's guardship; (and that every person does, who seeks to gain their ends by unlawful means); for he will lead them farther than they intended, and always brings his hogs to a poor market at last. I am,

Yours, &c,
CRITICUS*.

† We hope the writer of this article will forgive us for cutting off some introductory observations that we judged might be spared, without any prejudice to his reputation, *Edit.*

R. March 16,
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To the Editor of the Bee.

On Imprisonment for Debt.

SIR,

I HAVE read your observations on the laws of Britain, respecting imprisonment for debt; and your general principle I approve of. But there are several particulars in your new plan with which I cannot agree.

In your note upon Doctor Smith, it is very justly observed, that the searchers of truth only are not offended at accidental difference of opinion in those who have the same object in view. On this account you are now troubled.

To detail these observations is not here intended; it is merely to make a few remarks upon what you say about the costs of the debtor's trial. In article 4th are these words: "If a creditor shall make oath before a judge that he has reason to believe, and is himself convinced that either the surrendry has not been quite complete and fair, or that the debtor has been guilty of culpable conduct," he shall undergo a trial: And, in article 7th "That if upon this trial the debtor shall be acquitted, the creditor shall be liable for the costs, *without recourse*."

Suppose that this regulation should take place, what would most likely ensue? You are not to be told, that where there is one debtor from misfortune, there are many from bad conduct and villainy. Now, consider who in general will be the subjects of these trials: It will not surely be those who have suffered through misfortune, but those of the latter class. The former may indeed sometimes meet with them, though very seldom; because, having nothing to fear, they will at

once make a candid disclosure, and so save the necessity of a trial. But the latter, knowing themselves to be villains, will prepare themselves for a trial, by concerting themselves in such a manner that no discovery can be effected. They will be glad of an opportunity of intimidating their other creditors from similar attempts to detect them, by the expence those incur who may have had the courage to attempt it; especially as they know, that even though they are detected, the punishment falls, not upon them, but upon their creditors,—the expence being, according to your plan, to be deducted from the common fund, *before any division takes place.* This assertion is not at all weakened by the creditor's claim for the original debt continuing against the debtor till discharged; because the idea of fraud pre-supposes a determination in him never to pay more than his original surrendry, and, of course, it is of no moment to him how that is appropriated.

There is indeed an evident propriety in putting a check upon wanton litigation of creditors; because, otherwise they might consume the debtor's whole effects in fruitless, nay malicious law-suits. But it is not on this account that you would subject them in costs; it is from compassion to the debtors: and you have made no distinction betwixt unfortunate and intended fraudulent debtors, to each of whom I have already shewn the issue of the trial may be equally favourable. Neither have you distinguished betwixt creditors, who only wish to come at the truth, and those who act upon different principles. You have not considered that a creditor is entitled to put what questions he pleases to his debtor; and that if these questions be fair and pertinent, in whatever way the trial ends, the debtor ought to be liable for costs, on account of his contumacy in refusing to answer, and of course making a trial necessary. As to whether these costs should be deducted, *before a dividend*, or be an after claim against the debtor, I do not now intend to consider.

March 16,
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ON IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.

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To conclude—Ruinous consequences would in all probability result from this part of your plan: For, supposing the debtor to be *proved* a villain, no punishment, is on account of his obstinacy in forcing a trial, to be inflicted on him; whereas the very trial itself, instead of being, which you surely would wish it, a terror to villainous or obstinate bankrupts, would alone be to be dreaded by the honest creditor, who, from the punishment to be inflicted upon him, if he fails in instructing *guilt*, would very frequently rather submit to a loss, by which his circumstances may perhaps be only wounded, than venture upon that by which they may be altogether destroyed.

These are my reasons for disapproving of that part of articles 4th and 7th of your observations. I have been free, but I hope not unpolite; and I therefore hope that you will excuse the freedom.

CENSOR.

Remarks on the above.

So far is the writer of the observations on imprisonment for debt from being offended with the above remarks, that he thinks himself much obliged to *Censor* for stating them. He has no hypothesis to support, nor any other wish than to contribute all he can to correct an evil which he thinks loudly calls for a remedy; and he will view those who point out improprieties wherever they exist, as his true friends.

Frivolous and vexatious prosecutions are perhaps the greatest grievances to which a free people can be subjected. In this country, at least, they tend more to check the invigourating spirit of freedom among the poor, than any other cause whatever: they ought therefore to be guarded against, unless in cases where it can be very clearly proved they cannot be dispensed with.

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I

The regulations alluded to are all intended to render such prosecutions unnecessary; and if they shall be rendered unnecessary, the adopting them ought to be attended with difficulties. It was this principle that suggested the regulations.

Had a man, after having suffered bankruptcy, been allowed to enter into life, and to brave his creditors with as much ease as at present, the objection stated by *Censor* would have been admitted as of great weight. But the case would be greatly altered in this respect, should the proposed regulations be adopted. What temptations could a man have to lay plans for becoming a fraudulent bankrupt, when he knew that never afterwards could he enjoy a single meal, or have the property of any article whatever that might not be taken from him at the pleasure of any of his creditors, or those to whom they might consign their debts. But it is obvious, that were these regulations adopted, every creditor would have it in his power to seize the whole goods of the debtor wherever they can be found, and apply them to his own use. Even his clothes are expressly included: for although he cannot be stripped naked, yet all superfluities might be taken away as often as they could be found upon him. The money in his pocket, watches, and other trinkets, must go; and his clothes might be exchanged for those of a coarser and less valuable sort, whenever it was thought proper. Would any man who knew that nothing could secure him against meeting with these indignities, except a general conviction of his integrity, lay plans for becoming a fraudulent bankrupt? I should scarcely think he would. This is the check provided against the disorder, and not the prosecutions that hang over his head. The fear of such prosecutions at present, we know, are small.

In this point of view, therefore, it seems that there can be little reason for thinking there would be often occasions for prosecutions of any sort; and the point

to be aimed at is, to guard the innocent from distress wantonly inflicted.

Censor perhaps has paid less attention to the effects of a jury, in trials of this sort, than the writer of this article. It is believed that where a debtor has an intention to defraud his creditors, though he may be able to order matters so as to keep legal proof out of sight, yet it would scarcely be in his power so to conduct himself as not to give reason to suspect him of foul intentions, and that suspicion would be a very sufficient reason for the jury giving a special verdict; in which case he could not say how long he might be detained, or what chance there would thus be given for discovering his villainy, not by one trial, but by many trials, to which he might thus be subjected †. Perhaps no device was ever yet adopted by which a villain would have a less chance of escaping detection, than by this risk of many successive trials, in which the evidence that came out upon one trial, would often serve as a clue for conducting those that were to follow. Thus would a *fraudulent* bankrupt be environed with difficulties on every side, that could scarcely be overcome, while the honest and unfortunate only could be protected. With these fears hanging over him, who would not guard against this evil? But if such care is taken that *fraudulent* bankrupts should not escape, is it not equally necessary to guard the unfortunate from arbitrary oppression?

† This provision gives a debtor a power he does not possess at present; and therefore some check ought to be provided against the wanton exertion of this power. The circumstance laid hold of by *Censor* is the very check that was thought necessary to provide in this case. In regard to swindling, which approaches the nearest to fraudulent bankruptcies, no check is provided by the law at present. If the accuser fails in his proof, he must pay all his expences; and what is worse, the prisoner must be finally discharged, so as never afterwards to be liable to a prosecution for that crime. However, strong the presumptions were against him, no room is left for a future investigation; and if he once gets free, he has nothing to fear, although the prosecutor should afterwards obtain the clearest proof of his guilt.

As to the expence of the prosecution, in every ordinary case, this, by the mode prescribed, could be but small; and no man certainly ought to have power to harraiss another with prosecutions, unless he had reasonable grounds for it, to lay before a jury, who, in a case of this sort would by no means be difficult to be induced to give a special verdict, when they knew that a decision only tended to give another opportunity of discovering the truth, in suspicious circumstances.

From these considerations, it does not appear that the objection that has struck *Censor*, is of a nature as formidable as he imagines it to be. It is impossible for any human invention to be perfect. It is not in our power to devise measures in all cases to screen the innocent, without allowing a possibility for one guilty person now and then to escape; but when there is an alternative, that either the innocent must be subjected to unjust punishment, or a possibility given for one guilty person among many to escape, there is no doubt on which side the beam ought to preponderate. The general tendency is the thing that ought to be adverted to; and I am happy to find that a gentleman of so much candour as *Censor* seems to possess, should approve of the general tendency of the proposed regulations. Should the public think the particular he states ought to be altered, that might be very easily done, without affecting the principle of the proposed law. It was not proposed, in the slight sketch given, to enter into all particulars that would require to be adverted to, were a law to be enacted for the purpose required. These will easily be discovered to be consequences of the general principle, were it adopted. It was only meant in that sketch to develope the general principle. If it shall be found just, the lesser particulars might be easily adjusted.

Extracts from Whist, a Poem just published.

A Tale for the Ladies.

No proof, perhaps, so much can temper try,
 As that which gaming's eager hours supply;
 And therefore none, with those whose best regard
 The wish to keep, should ever touch a card.
 But chief, ye melting maids, whose constant care
 Spreads out for man the matrimonial snare,
 Lest ye your temper's secret faults betray,
 At whist but seldom with your lovers play;
 Take timely warning from Smelinda's fate,
 Whose hapless story I shall now relate;
 For truth's best habit is a pleasing tale,
 And oft example moves, where precepts fail.

PUSILLO now had reach'd the prime of life,
 And long had look'd about to find a wife:
 Small was his size, but ample was his store,
 And ampler still the character he bore:
 What wonder then, that ev'ry prudent maid
 With secret joy his entrance still survey'd;
 And tried, unwearied still, each female art,
 To gain an int'rest in the pigmy's heart?
 But young SMILINDA was the destin'd fair
 To prove the sweets of his peculiar care:
 Her form was cast in that enchanting mould,
 Which love with most delight will still behold;
 And smiles complacent, with eternal grace,
 Illum'd the sweetness of her angel face.
 "Unmingled bliss (if such on earth there be),
 "Must sure, fair virgin, be to live with thee."
 Such the conclusion, which, at ev'ry view,
 From her soft eyes the fond Pusillo drew.
 And yet suspicion kept his hopes in awe,
 Nor could he wholly trust to what he saw.
 He knew, that still before the lover's eyes,
 The simplest beauty wears a slight disguise;
 And e'er he ventur'd boldly to demand
 The rich donation of the virgin's hand;
 To which, from many sighs, he well could see
 That neither she, nor hers, averse could be;

He thought it best some farther care to take,
And one more nice experiment to make ;
By which he might the certain knowledge gain,
If she her temper could at cards retain :
Resolv'd that, if she well this trial bore,
He then would vainly hesitate no more ;
Would freely then declare his nuptial view,
And bid suspicion and distrust adieu.

For this, occasion soon the power supplied,
And placed him opposite his destin'd bride.

But e'er the first commencing game was won,
Our artful lover had his schemes begun ;
Some slight mistake he had already made,
And then with anxious gaze her eyes survey'd ;
But still those eyes their placid charms retain
And all her features still unmov'd remain ;
A peace that liv'd no deeper than the skin,
For fierce contending passions rag'd within ;
Some sad, wrong word was always on her tongue,
Came to the tip, and there a moment hung ;
But when reflection darted through her brain,
She gave a gulp,—and down it went again.

Nor was the contest long, till each could claim,
The fruitless triumph of a double game.
Thus far did chance her equal smiles divide,
And still she seem'd unwilling to decide, }
Or give pre-eminence to either side.
For in the closing game they both at once
Within one step of conquest's goal advance ;
And now Puffin thought the time was nigh,
The utmost suff'rence of her soul to try,
For then each heart with greater zeal proceeds,
And each occurrence more emotion breeds ;
Nor did he grudge (to gain his curious views)
The rubber's praise and profit both to lose.

With wilful error slips the trump to play,
And throws at one rash stroke, their all away.

But when the falling card the veil withdrew
Which hid the grossness of his fault from view,
The gentle creature could endure no more ;
She started up, she stamp'd, she rag'd, she swore ;
Proclaim'd her wrongs, and threw the cards away,
No longer in his presence deign'd to stay.

A work, alone by length of ages done,
Is oft by ruin in an hour undone ;

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EXTRACTS FROM WHIST.

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And thus that flame, which had for years endur'd,
In one short minute was entirely cur'd :
No longer now the youth attentive paid
His daily visits to the charming maid,
Who found, too late, she had herself betrayed ; }
And ev'ry female art essay'd in vain,
Her former empire o'er his heart to gain.

With trembling hope, she sent the billet strait, }
Whose doubtful issue was to fix her fate ;
Nor for an answer had she long to wait :
Th' important note a yellow wafer seal'd,
'Twas brief, but yet enough his mind reveal'd :
" When cards and dice are banish'd from the land,
" Puffinlo then will ask Smiliada's hand."

The Fair Thief, by the late Earl of Egremont.

I TELL with equal truth and grief,
That little Kitt's an errant thief ;
Before the urchin well could go,
She stole the whiteness of the snow ;
And more that whiteness to adorn,
She stole the blushes of the morn ;
Stole all the softness which she pours
On primrose buds in vernal show'rs.

There's no repeating all her wiles ;
She stole the graces winning smiles ;
'Twas quickly seen she rob'd the sky,
To plant a star in either eye ;
She pilfer'd oriental pearl for teeth,
And stole the cow's ambrosial breath
The cherry steep'd in morning dew,
Gave moisture to her lips, and hue.

These were her infant spoil ; a store
To which in time she added more :
At twelve, she stole from Cyprus' queen,
Her air, and love commanding mien ;
Stole Juno's dignity, and stole
From Pallas sense to charm the soul.
She sung—Amazed the Syrens heard,
And to assert their voice appear'd :

She play'd—the Muses from their hill,
 Wonder'd who thus had stole their skill :
 Apollo's wit was next her prey,
 And then the beams that light the day ;
 While Jove her pilf'ring tricks to crown,
 Pronounc'd these beauties all her own ;
 Pardon'd her crimes, and prais'd her art,
 And t'other day she stole my heart.

Cupid! If lovers are thy care,
 Revenge thy vot'ry on the fair ;
 Do justice on her stolen charms,
 And let her prison be my arms.

An Enquiry, how far Inferior Animals may be said to be endowed with reason, from the Natural History of Animals, just published.

THE inferior animals are so remarkably deficient in the reasoning and thinking powers, when compared with man, that human pride has been tempted to deny them entirely the possession of such powers. Though we find them such useful assistants, and at times such formidable enemies, we would willingly degrade them to a rank in the order of creation still lower than that which nature has assigned them. We delight to represent them as destitute of reason, and guided only by what we call instinct. We observe, that even the most sagacious among them are incapable of that variety of minute distinctions, which our reasoning faculties enable us to make:—They cannot take so full a review of the past, nor look forward with so penetrating an eye towards the future: They do not accumulate observation upon observation, or add to the experience of one generation that of another: Their manners do not vary, nor their customs fluctuate, like ours: Their arts remain always the same, and are not liable either to degenerate, or to be improved: The crow always builds its nest in the same way; every hen treats her young with the same measure of affection; even the dog, the horse, and the sagacious elephant, seem to act rather mechanically than with design. From such hasty observa-

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tions as these, it has been inferred, that the brutes are directed in their actions by some mysterious influence, which impels them to employ their powers unintentionally in performing actions beneficial to themselves, and suitable to their nature and circumstances.

Other opinions have, however, been formed concerning the character of the inferior animals, which are plainly inconsistent with this notion, and which would, therefore, lead us to suspect it as false, even before entering into a particular examination of the grounds on which it stands. One of the greatest philosophers among the ancients * was so fully convinced that the brutes possess the same powers of intelligence as men, that he represented them to his disciples as animated by souls which had previously acted a part in human bodies, and, for that reason, enjoined them to treat those their humbler brethren with gentleness and humanity, and to beware of ever shedding their blood. The same opinion still prevails through the east; and it has actually such influence on the manners of the Gentoos, that they will perish of hunger, rather than shed the blood, or eat the flesh of an animal.

This opinion, indeed, as well as that which degrades the brutes to the humble character of pieces of mere mechanism, may probably have originated from prejudice or careless observation. But, since natural history has begun to be more diligently cultivated, many observations have been made on the manners and economy of the inferior animals, which prove, that, if they are guided by instinct, that instinct is by no means a mechanical principle of action, but, in its nature and susceptibility of improvement, often approaches nearly to the character of human reason. The manners of no one species among the brutes are uniformly the same in all the individuals belonging to it. Even in performing those actions in which they are said to be guided by unvarying instinct, different individuals display different modes of conduct. It is probable, that if we were to examine their manners and economy with the same minute and careful attention with which we observe the conduct of our own species, we should find those of their actions which we call

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* Pythagoras.

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instinctive much more diversified than we imagine: the general resemblance,—the family likeness, would no doubt still hold; but we should surely discover the character of the individuals to be distinctly marked, as well as that of the species. The laws of analogical reasoning do not justify the idea that the brutes act, on any occasion, absolutely without design. On many occasions, they undeniably act with design: The dog obeys his master; he traces his footsteps, in order to overtake him: he even attempts to make returns of gratitude for the kindness with which he is treated. Others of the inferior animals behave in a similar manner. It seems, therefore, more probable, the inferior animals, even in those instances in which we cannot distinguish the motives which actuate them, or the views with which they proceed, act not altogether without design, and extend their views, if not a great way, yet at least a certain length forward,—than that they can be, upon any occasion, such as in rearing their young, building nests, &c. actuated merely by feeling, or over-ruled by some mysterious influence, under which they are nothing but insensible instruments.

The facts from which this induction is drawn, have of late forced themselves on observation, in such a manner as to give rise to a very *curious* theory*. It has been thought better to degrade mankind nearer to the same level with the brutes, than to elevate the brutes to the rank usually assigned to mankind. The human mind has been represented as a bundle of instincts, only a little larger than those bundles of the same materials which have been bestowed on the brutes. Observing, that the inferior animals seemed, on many occasions, to act upon the same principles with mankind, and unwilling to allow that the former can act with design; the author of this theory has contrived to explain the phenomena, by denying design to his own species.

But we will not tamely surrender our rights. It is better to share them with others than to be entirely deprived of them. We are conscious of comparing ideas, and of forming designs. If these operations are called instincts,—very well: this is not to advance a new doctrine, but to

* See Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Vol. I. p. 39 to 45.

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Edinburgh, Vol. I. p. 39.

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propose the use of new terms. Yet those already in use seem sufficiently adequate to the purposes for which they are employed. Let mankind still be allowed to reason, and to act with design; even though it must be granted, that the brutes too reason, but not so skilfully, and form designs, but designs much less extensive than those of mankind.

We not only accomplish such purposes as we propose to ourselves, by the use of such means as prudence suggests; but we are also subject to laws, by the influence of which our conduct, whatever it be, naturally produces certain effects on our character and circumstances, which we neither previously desired nor foresaw. The drunkard, for instance, sits down only to swallow a liquor of which he is fond, or to join in that noisy mirth which reigns among his fellows; but he insensibly acquires a habit which he did not think of, and by indulging in that habit, unintentionally produces very unhappy changes on his health and circumstances. The benevolent man, in the same manner, when he interferes to relieve his brother in distress, does not probably attend to all the effects which his conduct, in this instance, is likely to produce, either to himself or to the person whom he relieves: And of human actions in general, it may be observed, that their consequences always extend much farther than the design or foresight of the agent. Beings of superior intelligence might regard mankind as incapable of design, with just as much reason as we have to deny the brutes any guiding principle superior to blind and simple instinct. We, however, are conscious of design; though our designs are commonly narrow, and our views limited: why, then, consign the inferior animals to the guidance of an unmeaning impulse? Were it proper to enter more minutely at present into a discussion of this point, it might be easy to prove, by an induction of particulars, that the brutes actually compare ideas and deduce inferences; and when we consider their docility, and mark the variety of their manners, it appears almost absurd to deny that they form designs, and look backward on the past, and forward towards the future, as well as we.

We may conclude then, with respect to the inferior animals, that they possess in general, the powers of percep-

tion, memory, consciousness; with various affections, passions, and internal feelings; and even, though perhaps in a meaner degree, those powers of comparing and judging which are necessary to enable an animated being to form designs, and to direct its actions to certain ends. Their prospects towards the future are evidently very confined: they cannot review the past with such a steady eye as man: imagination is not, with them, so vigorous and active as with us, and is confined within a narrower range. But still they are not absolutely confined to present sensations; they connect some part of the past and of the future with the present. When we contemplate their manners, we behold not social intercourse regulated among them by the same forms as among us: Their characters and circumstances differ so considerably from ours, that though the great principles of right and wrong, may, wherever they are perceived, remain the same to them as to us; yet the application of those principles to particular cases must be very different among them from what it is with us. Thus, philosophers have fancied imaginary states of human society, in which the present laws of distributive and commutative justice could not be observed*: but even in such states of society, the fundamental principles of justice would continue obligatory, and would only be varied in their application. The brutes appear, in short, to possess, but in a more imperfect degree, the same faculties as mankind. Instinct must always be a simple principle, an original feeling; the only business of which is to rouse to action,—to call the reasoning powers to exert themselves. To talk of instinctive principles that admit of improvement, and accommodate themselves to circumstances, is merely to introduce new terms into the language of philosophy. No such improvement or accommodation to circumstances can ever take place without a comparison of ideas, and a deduction of inferences. When we consider with how much difficulty that acquaintance with the manners and customs of mankind, which we call *knowledge of the world*, is obtained, we cannot be surprised that even philosophers should be so imperfectly acquainted

* See, in Hume's *Essays*, an Enquiry concerning the Principles of Morals.

MARCH 16,

ious affections, passing through perhaps in a hearing and judging, not being to form certain ends. Their faculty very confined: a steady eye as man: vorous and active as a narrower range. But present sensations; of the future with their manners, we become them by the letters and circumstances though the great wherever they are present; yet the applications must be very difficult to us. Thus, philosophy of human society, in and commutative justice in such states of justice would continue in their application. but in a more mankind. Instinct mutual feeling; the only to call the reason- talk of instinctive principle and accommodate them—introduce new terms such improvement or take place without of inferences. When that acquaintance mankind, which we call cannot be surprised imperfectly acquainted

concerning the Principles of

1791. OF REASON AMONG INFERIOR ANIMALS. 77

with the more minute particulars in the manners and economy of the brutes. To man their manners are much less interesting than those of his own species; and there are, besides, many difficulties to prevent us from becoming intimately acquainted with them, however earnestly we may turn our attention to this object.

Intelligence respecting Arts, &c.

The following interesting communication is just received from London, which the editor makes haste to lay before the public. He will be impatient till he shall hear farther concerning the particulars to which it relates.

To the Editor of the Bee.

SIR,

THE following paper having been handed about in a company I have just left, I thought it might afford an interesting article for your useful miscellany. I therefore looked upon myself as fortunate in obtaining permission to take a copy of it, which I here inclose; and I am Sir, &c.

London.

A. R.

Outline of the Plan of Construction of a Panopticon Penitentiary House: As designed by Jeremy Bentham, of Lincoln's-Inn, Esq.

Thou art about my Path, and about my Bed: and spiest out all my Ways.
If I say, peradventure the Darkness shall cover me, then shall my Night be turned into Day.
Even there, also shall thy hand lead me; and thy right hand shall hold me.
Psal. cxxxix.

The building circular—The cells occupying the circumference—The Keepers, &c. the centre—An intermediate annular well all the way up, crowned by a sky-light usually open, answering the purpose of a ditch in fortification, and of a chimney in ventilation—The cells, laid open to it by an iron grating.

The yards without, laid out upon the same principle:—as also the communication between the building and the yards.

By blinds and other contrivances, the keeper concealed from the observation of the prisoners, unless where he thinks fit to shew himself: hence, on their part, the sentiment of an invisible omnipresence.—The whole circuit reviewable with little, or, if necessary, without any change of place.

One station in the inspection-part affording the most perfect view of two stories of cells, and a considerable view of another:—the result of a difference of level.

The same cell serving for all purposes: *work, sleep, meals, punishment, devotion*: The unexampled airyness of construction conciliating this economy with the most scrupulous regard to health.—The minister with a numerous, but mostly concealed, auditory of visitors, in a regular chapel in the centre, visible to half the cells, which on this occasion may double their complement.

The *fires*, if both are admitted, *invisible* to each other.

Solitude, or limited seclusion, ad libitum.—But, unless for punishment, limited seclusion in assorted companies of two, three, and four, is preferred: An arrangement, upon this plan alone, exempt from danger. The degree of seclusion fixed upon may be preserved, in all places, and at all times, *inviolable*. Hitherto, where solitude has been aimed at, some of its chief purposes have been frustrated by occasional associations.

The approach, *one only*.—*Gates* opening into a walled *avenue* cut through the area. Hence, no strangers near the building without leave, nor without being *surveyed* from it as they pass, nor without being known to come on purpose. The gates, of open work, to *expose* *beside* mobs: On the other side of the road, a wall with a branch of the road behind, to *shelter* peaceable passengers from the fire of the building. A mode of fortification like this, if practicable in a city, would have saved the *London prisons* and prevented the unpopular accidents in *St. George's Fields*.

The *surrounding wall*, itself surrounded by an open palisade, which serves as a fence to the grounds on the other side.—Except on the side of the approach, *no public path* by that fence.—A *centinel's walk* between: on which no one else can set foot, without forcing the fence, and declaring himself a trespasser at least, if not an enemy. To the four walls, four such walks *flanking* and *crossing* each other at the ends.—Thus each centinel has two to check him.

Thus simple are the leading principles.—The application and preservation of them in the detail, required, as may be supposed, some variety of contrivance.

The expence of this mode, would not, it is supposed, be above half of that of the late ingenious Mr. Blackburn, which, for a national penitentiary house, was to have cost above 120 l. a man †.

* The editor is much obliged to the friendly assistance of A. R. for this communication, and will thank others for communications of the same sort when they fall in their way. Every proposal that tends to alleviate human misery, will claim a particular share of his attention. It would be a great addition to the favour now conferred, if the gentleman could direct where a plan and elevation of this penitentiary house could be procured. No price would be grudged.

USE. March 16,

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FRENCH AFFAIRS.—THE BASTILLE.

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Notices of the Proceedings in France, respecting the establishment of Civil Liberty.

THE Editor of this miscellany, a long time ago, intended to present his readers with some account of the transactions in France, those especially that were calculated to establish the freedom of the people; a subject that ought ever to be dear to the inhabitants of Britain. But the multiplicity of his avocations have hitherto hindered him from overtaking it; and the pressure of other matter has prevented him from finding room. In future, he intends to be particularly attentive to that quarter; and from the smallness of type he has chosen for this department, he hopes to be able to satisfy the curiosity of his readers, in some respect, on this subject.

As the power of arbitrary imprisonment was the great grievance that served to unite all parties in the cause of freedom, so the demolition of the Bastille, (the principal state-prison in France), is fixed upon as the great era of civil liberty in that kingdom. This event has given rise to many writings in the cause of freedom, that have been universally read, and have produced great effects upon the minds of the people. Among these writings, the reflections on the bastille by M. de La Harpe is justly distinguished, not only for the elegance of style and warmth of elocution, but for the importance of the facts it brings to light, and the forcible reasoning with which these are accompanied. The following extract from that work displays the villainous system of government that there prevailed.—While we read it, let us be on our guard to eradicate from among ourselves, the seeds of such a system of despotism, should they ever be introduced into this country.

"To strengthen that just aversion every good and reasonable man has long entertained to the system of our exchequer, it may be proper to read the case of Mr. Rubigni de Berteval, tanner in Paris, sent to the Bastille in 1777, for having written memorials presented to the ministry against the ruinous impost of marking leather. There is perhaps nothing more calculated to display all that was vicious and baneful in the arbitrary system of our administration. That worthy citizen had merited the protection and encouragement of two enlightened and virtuous ministers of finance, M. Turgot and M. Neckar, who had done justice to the wisdom of his views and patriotic intentions. But in consequence, he had reason to expect the animadversion of Abbé Terray, and above all, the implacable hatred of the *Leather-office* (*Regie des cuirs*). Of this he adduces an incontrovertible proof, from a letter of one of the directors of the office to an inspector. "The company, Sir, are informed, that it is the Sieur de Berteval who writes against them; we must go to law with that man, and crush him if possible: your places depend on it."

"Let us not be surprized at this letter. Interest, particularly in companies, operates in such a way; it is a matter of course. M. de Berteval had demonstrated, "that, before the tax, he manufactured upwards of 46000 hides; but since its imposition, not more than 6000

"skins of all sorts: that in 1759, there were in the principal cities of the kingdom, 662 tan-houses; that in 1775, they were reduced to 198; that the leather-office had destroyed the goodness of the manufacture, disturbed the peace, and the trade of 30,000 families, occasioned a prodigious emigration of able workmen; and finally, that the loss to the state since 1750 was 160 millions*."

"The author of a memoir of such utility and importance, would have been distinguished and consulted at London by the House of Commons; but here a Regie (a board) was a power not to be controuled. At first they attempted to ruin M. de Bertheval, by causing false marks to be put on the hides in his warehouse, by means of the officer, whose business it was to examine them. This piece of villainy, unhappily too frequent, was without effect, and without punishment. Afterwards they tried to intimidate him, by demanding of him in a public audience of the police, to renounce all intentions of writing against the Regie. He refused. Still there remained the great, the universal resource, the Bastille; and though he was then protected by M. Neckar then in office, yet as every minister was absolute in his own department, they obtained from him who presided over Paris, an order to arrest, in open day, a respectable trader, and to tear from the arms of his wife and children, a father of a family. After some days he was enlarged; but the great blow had been struck; a kind of stigma had been affixed on him; a man in business is not imprisoned in such a manner, without suffering in his affairs and reputation at least for some time; without being at least somewhat disgusted with writing for the public interest in opposition to a board, who he finds attend so particularly to their own private interests; and thus it is, that all is for the best in this best of possible worlds."

"However desirous I am to abridge this article, which has lengthened in spite of me, it is not possible to pass over a singular trait in this history of inhumanity, and which would be incredible, but for the infallible and irrefragable registers of the Bastille. It is, that an old man upwards of a hundred years of age, M. Contant, was shut up in this state prison, the 5th March 1760, and enlarged the tenth of April following. The register adds, he was then aged one hundred and eleven years, and remarkably well. The Editors remark, that the motive of his detention is not expressed. I am not surpris'd at it; but I am so that they should be ignorant of a matter which was so public, and made a good deal of noise at the time. It is without doubt curious to know what could have sent to the Bastille a man of that extraordinary age, so far beyond the term of life at which the law ceases to imprison debtors. This M. Contant was a citizen of good reputation, and had obtained a small pension from Louis XV. from the rare circumstance of having lived a century. As it was not punctually paid, and he was straitened for want of it, he went to make his complaint at the public levee of the minister Comte de Florentin; there probably he had in some little degree exercised the right of age, and had not preserved in his expressions and tone, that guarded circumspection which suited the etiquette of the place: This was the least that was due to the Majesty of a minister, whom he had dared to reproach for keeping back what had been granted by the goodness of the King."

* This calculation was verified in the Archives of the Bastille, by Messrs. Perceval and Thouret.

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THE BEE,

OR

LITERARY WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER,

FOR

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23. 1791.

*On the Folly of being discontented with our native Coun-
try.*

Home is always home, tho' it were e'er so homely.

PROVERB.

So bountiful has the Creator of this universe been to his creatures, that he hath disseminated those things which can minister to human enjoyment in a much more equal degree through the different regions of the earth, than can easily be perceived by a superficial observer: on one region he hath conferred blessings of a particular kind, which he hath withheld from another, while advantages of a different kind make up for the partial want. To those who know how to make a proper use of the blessings that fall to their share, this wise disposition of providence is pleasing: But the peevish and the ignorant seldom experience the sweet solace that arises from a grateful contentment with the lot that hath fallen to their own share. While they feel the evils to which they themselves are subjected, they look around them, and perceiving that others are not subjected to the same hardships, they hastily conclude

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that they enjoy a happier lot than themselves. Not having felt the ills, perhaps of a severer kind, to which others are exposed, they perceive them not at all, and rashly conclude, that Heaven hath strewed the path of other men with roses only, while nothing but briars and thorns, and noxious weeds, spring up in the dreary road which they are compelled to tread. Their minds become thus perversish and discontented. All nature assumes to them a gloomy appearance; and they dare to lift up their presumptuous eye even to heaven, and blaspheme the merciful creator of this universe, by accusing him, in their hearts, of partiality and injustice.

In no one particular are men more apt unjustly to complain of their lot, than by depreciating the climate and the country in which they live. In other respects, the grievances of individuals vary so much, that each is reduced to the necessity of uttering his own solitary complaints, without being joined by others; but in this respect the complaint of one man is re-echoed by another, and they so cordially agree in exciting the bad humour of each other, that they act without restraint. The same complaints are so often repeated, that they come at length to be believed as sacred truths, which admit of no dispute.

It is in this way we hear repeated every day such loud and unqualified complaints of the nature of the climate in which we live, that many persons have brought themselves seriously to believe it is the most inhospitable region in the universe. *Here* the effects of cold, in particular, are at times so severely felt, that most people are inclined to believe, that those who live in warmer regions are, in every respect more comfortably situated than ourselves; we think of the delicious fruits that are natives of those regions, and languish for the gratifications that these would afford to us: we spy the rose, while not within our grasp; its balmy fragrance enchants us, its delicate blush invites us to pluck it, but we perceive not the thorn with which it is accompanied. It pricks us only when we take it in our

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1791.

ON ITALY.

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hand. In the ecstasy of admiring what is not our own, we forget the good things that have long been in our possession.

To speak without a figure.—Italy has long been called the garden of Europe, and to young men of fortune, the desire of visiting this garden is irresistible. Home becomes to them a prison, so delightfully inviting does foreign parts appear to them at a distance: nor are their parents ever suffered to be at peace till they grant permission to them to go thither. “I could not sleep in quiet, said once to me a gentleman of great ingenuoufness of disposition: I sickened at the appearance of every object around me: I became peevish, fretful and discontented, till my father was prevailed on to allow me to go to Italy. I travelled thither in anxious expectation of charms I never found; and after having spent a twelvemonth without having got a sound sleep, from having been constantly eaten up with vermin, stewed with heat, and involved in nastiness, from which it was impossible to escape, I was happy at last to be permitted to return to that unhospitable region, as I once thought it, which gave me birth, where I have since experienced, both as to climate, food, and cleanliness, a kind of satisfaction that I never could feel in those enchanting regions so much famed in classic story, which had made such a lively impression on my youthful imagination.” The person who said this is a sensible man; and what he said, made such an impression on my mind, as to have occasioned these reflections.

Grapes, oranges, melons, figs, and pine-apples, are without all dispute delicate fruits, that are highly grateful to the palate. But such things as these, in any country, can form but a small share of the food and sustenance of the people. Were they even capable of yielding a substantial nourishment, they could not be taken in sufficient quantity for the purpose: the very poignancy of their flavour prevents it. By frequent use, they would cloy the palate, and become nauseous

to the stomach; these, therefore, are delicacies which can only be prized where they are scarce, and must be disregarded as useless superfluities, where they are plenty. Such things, therefore, are imaginary goods, rather than real blessings. It is articles of *food* only, that can give one country a decided advantage above another in this respect: and how stands the balance between temperate climates and warmer regions in regard to this particular?

In place of those few exotic fruits, which we cannot rear in perfection, without artificial heat, we have others of our own, not perhaps inferior to these either in delicacy or nutritious quality. But allowing their fruits the pre-eminence they claim, we have in their stead, wheat, rye, barley, oats, potatoes, and innumerable legumes, roots, and garden-plants, in such abundance, as to supply the inhabitants with the certainty of obtaining a healthy nourishing repast at all times. And if, in warm climates, these things also, can, in some measure, be obtained; yet, in respect to the more invigorating viands of beef, mutton, lamb, and veal, they fall infinitely behind us. The genial temperature of our summer heats serve to clothe our plants with a rich and lasting verdure, which affords a never-failing plenty of succulent food, that gives to the flesh of our domestic animals, a tender juiciness that the inhabitants of warmer climates never know. There, the thirsty fields, parched up by the overpowerful influence of the summer sun, exhibit scarce a blade of grass. All is dry and withered. The cattle, stinted for food, instead of beef, afford, when brought to the shambles, a kind of sticky flesh, more like a dried ham, than any thing else. Milk too, that luxurious delicacy which nature hath granted in abundance to the lowest of our people, is there to be had only in scanty quantities, at a high price; and butter is scarcely known. Let an honest Englishman look at his well-

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ON ITALY.

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stored larder, and then say, if he would exchange it for all the oranges and melons that Italy can afford *.

In respect of sustenance, therefore, we have no reason to complain of our lot, when compared with that of warmer regions.

Let us next state the parallel in respect to health, and personal enjoyments.

Man was evidently intended for labour. He must earn his bread by the sweat of his brow. But with the bread he thus earns, he likewise earns a more invaluable blessing, health, and an appetite to relish that food. Whatever gives health and vigour to the body, gives energy and activity to the mind. But labour gives this vigour; and cold, to a certain degree, inspires a taste for labour. Happy above all others, then, are the inhabitants of temperate climates, where the regions verge towards cold. Labour to them becomes pleasant; activity constitutes the basis of their recreations; health of body and vigour of mind are the consequences. Shall we then complain, because heaven hath cast our lot in a region of this nature!

But setting future consequences aside, let us look only towards the enjoyment of the present hour. At

* The following notices are taken from Walker's Travels, (p. 300.) lately published. "We call Italy the garden of the world; I can by no means think it so. The climate is certainly a happy medium between the torrid and frigid zones; rather warmer, indeed, than an English constitution can well bear. But the soil bears no grass, and, of course, their beef, mutton, &c. is wretched. Venison they have little or none, and what they have, we should esteem carrion in England. Their fowls are a nuisance in the streets of Rome; yet I have never seen a large or a fat fowl in Italy. The fish from the Mediterranean are very good; fine lobsters, plaice, sardines, mullets, &c. The bread is chiefly of Indian corn, dark-coloured and tough. Butter they have none, an Englishman can eat. The pork they brag much of, but I have seen none yet I could eat; and the wild boars I have had no desire of tasting. All this may be rooted and inveterate prejudice. I have certainly come too late in life to Italy; my habits are too much established to conform to innovation in domestic matters; but yet few, I believe, who ever come hither, have enjoyed the curiosities of it more than I have done."

certain seasons of the year, we feel the cold, in some respects, severer than we could wish; but how easy is it to guard against it? An additional fold of cloathing, a little more exercise, a warm pair of gloves, a good fire, effectually drive away every uneasy sensation resulting from this cause; and how few persons are there, that cannot command one or all of these remedies? But in warmer regions, how can the oppressive power of heat be overcome? The direct rays of the sun, acting in certain cases on the head, sometimes prove the cause of death, as instant and certain as the stroke of a bullet. The parching wind, called *sirocco*, stifles the unhappy traveller, who is surprised by it at a distance from shelter. The poisonous nature of its effects are experienced even in the inmost recesses of the best constructed palaces. A feverish languor creeps through every vein; and universal sickness prevails.—Even when these effects are not experienced in this degree, it becomes extremely difficult to remove that languor and that uneasy sensation, which always accompanies a too high degree of heat upon the human frame. The clothes that are necessary to prevent the sun from blistering the skin, become a load that cannot be easily born; and at night, when the body, exhausted by the languid fatigues of the day, seeks for repose, it often seeks for it in vain. Unquiet slumbers, the usual attendants of too much heat, are ever and anon disturbed by the hum of insects; the bite of fleas, which no human effort can banish; and the crawling of other vermin:—In vain are the bed-post put into dishes of water to prevent the insects from ascending; some overleap the mound; others mount up by their wings.—All night long the attention is called off by some one or other of these disagreeable objects; which, to a person who has not been accustomed to them, presents to the imagination the most disgusting ideas. At last the exhausted watcher drops into a kind of slumber; he dreams; a gentle compression about his neck, suggests the idea that it is the arm

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the cold, in some but how easily is the cold of cloathing, gloves, a good dry sensation re- persons are there, se remedies? But the restorative power of the sun, acting as prove the cause of the stroke of a bul- co, stifles the un- at a distance from effects are expe- of the best con- creeps through prevails.—Even in this de- to remove that which always accom- the human frame. vent the sun from t cannot be easily exhausted by the repose, it often seeks usual attendants of urbed by the hum o human effort can min:—In vain are er to prevent the the mound; others ht long the atten- r of these disagree- o has not been ac- agination the most ted watcher drops a gentle compres- a that it is the arm

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ON ITALY.

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of the nymph he loves. He enjoys for a moment the luxurious idea of being embraced by the idol of his heart. He awakes; but judge of his surprise, when instead of the arm of his mistress, he finds it is a snake that has entwined itself about his neck! Are these the pleasures we pant after? Are these the joys for which we despise our own comfortable home, where, after the head is laid upon the pillow, nothing can disturb repose, that does not proceed from the mind of guilt or anxious care?

I will not disgust the reader with a longer detail of the disagreeable effects that result to the human frame in warm climates. I will not shock him with a minute enumeration of the ravages produced at times by locusts and flies; by which whole nations have been nearly exterminated, and extensive regions, abandoned by man, left as a habitation for reptiles of the vilest sort; for even the strongest and the fiercest animals, have been obliged to migrate from the regions where they abound. I will not dwell upon the horrors that have arisen from the bite of vipers, snakes, centipedes, tarantulas, and other poisonous animals. I will not enumerate the ravages that are too often produced in these climates by hail, and thunder and tornados. It is enough for me barely to mention, that these are ills, to which every inhabitant of these happy regions, as we have been accustomed to think them, are for ever exposed. Leaving these dreary scenes, I would wish to turn the attention of the reader to the delightful serenity that every inhabitant of Britain must have experienced in a social walk, during a fine evening in the summer months. Nothing that depends upon climate, or the effects of external air can equal it; temperate without heat; serene without glare; peaceful without gloom. Every object in nature seems to vie with another, which shall administer in the most perfect manner to gratify the senses and to calm the mind. Thus the

poet with great justice describes a summer evening in Scotland.

Serene and mild the genial evening comes,
Inspiring soft benignity and peace.
The setting sun, with parting ray uprear'd
Ben Lomond last of all our mountains gilds,
Then sinks beneath the hills :
Yet still the lengthen'd day,
As if averse to leave the pleasing scene,
Slowly retires far north, and lingering long,
Not quite forsakes,
But verging eastward, gilds the orient sky ;
And soon the sun returns again
More fair, more bright,
To glad with morning beams
Ben Lomond's pathless top *.

Of such a scene the inhabitants of warmer regions can have no idea. As we cannot form an adequate notion of the plagues of flies, and grasshoppers, and lice, that successively destroyed the Egyptians; so neither can they form an idea of the enchanting delights of a summer evening in Britain.

Let us then be contented with our lot, nor envy the situation of others, but improve to the utmost of our power the advantages we ourselves possess; for, were we to shift places with any other people, we should perhaps find we had lost much more than we had gained by the change.

* From Loch Lomond a poem, altered.

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1791,

ON HORACE.

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An Essay on the Genius and Character of Horace, as exhibited in his Odes.

Sed quæ Tibur aquæ fertile præfuit,
Et spissæ nemorum comæ,
Fugent Alolio carmine nobilem,
Ode 3. lib. iv.

But him, the streams which warbling flow
Rich Tibur's fertile vales along,
And shady groves, his haunts shall know,
The master of the *Æolian Song*.

THE ode is a very ancient species of poetry: it was used in very remote times, to accompany music at high festivals and dramatic exhibitions. Such was the intention of the psalms of David, Pindar's odes, those of Sophocles and Euripides, many of Horace's, and several of our most celebrated modern odes.

These compositions being rehearsed in this manner before crouded audiences, it was to be expected that the poet would exert his genius to make the versification harmonious and elegant; the sentiments beautifully spirited and striking, and in every respect as finished as possible. Accordingly many of these poems are found to be of the most exquisite kind, as well for elegance and beauty, as boldness and majesty of genius, though the softer qualities are certainly to be preferred. It is more suitable to the epic poem to fire with high ideas, or delight with wonderful; where the mind, by a series of events, is gradually interested in the theme, and prepared to soar with the author in his highest flights. But in such a short composition as an ode, we are best pleased with an unaffected and elegant description of some of the pathetic or gay occurrences of life, in which the author or his friends are particularly interested. The imagination feels itself overstrained,

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when obliged all at once to view great or dreadful transactions, but always willingly reposes itself on calm and exhilarating scenes.

In these respects Horace is very happy; he does not love to dwell in the lofty regions of poetry; he does not aspire to the highest top of Parnassus, but chooses rather to revel in its flowery vales, and diversified meads; he knew almost above any writer where his strength lay, and never attempts a theme to which he is not prompted by the natural bias of his genius. Every thing flows so easy from him, and with so little effort, that one never thinks he writes but to please himself; fame he may pursue, and a desire to please others, but he never seems to do so. All is the offspring of nature and choice.

Horace has presented us with a more numerous collection of separate complete pieces than any other writer. Of 122 odes, there is not one without some singular beauty peculiar to its author; however common, trifling, or familiar the subject may be, he is always sure to interest. He is never insipid, weak or nerveless; the genius of Horace is never asleep; open but his book at random, and you will be sure to find sufficient scope for admiration, either in the exquisite beauty of his sentiments, or the extreme elegance and propriety of his language. There is a clear and classical fire which never deserts him; he does not raise his readers to high flights at the hazard of being involved in misty clouds; he does not often lead them to bold and daring tracts, where there is any danger of meeting with what is rugged or unpleasant: He loves to breathe a pure air; ever pleased and cheerful, his readers never open his works but with delight, and never shut them without satisfaction.

What we most admire in this poet, is the unreserved display he gives of his own character, which, upon the whole, is very modest and amiable; so unassumedly open is he in mentioning his follies, his faults, and his

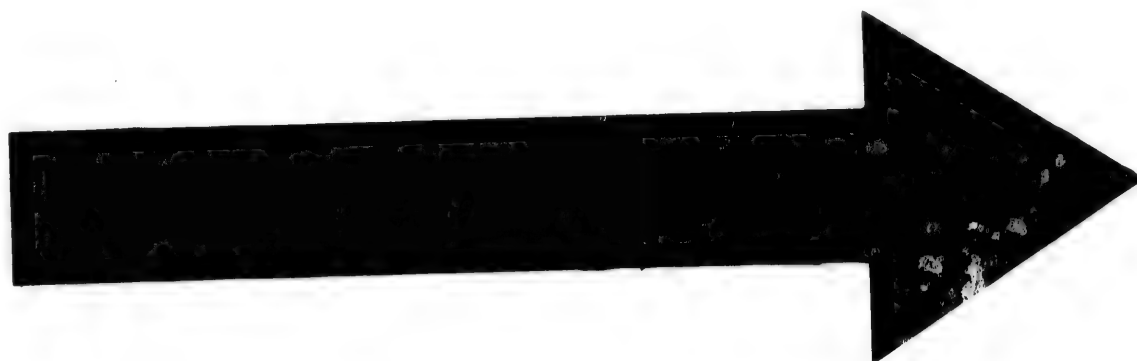
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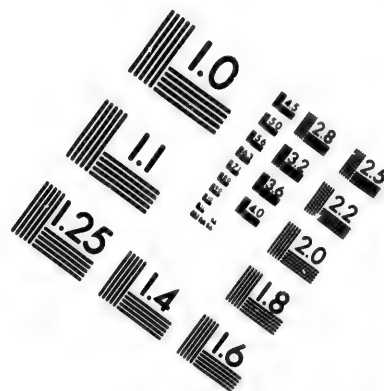
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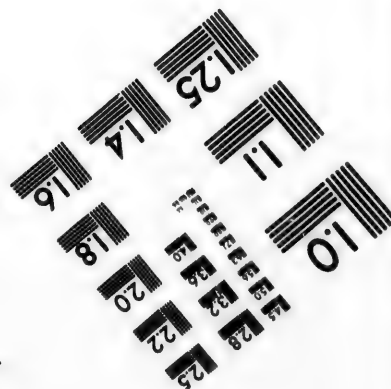


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foibles, that we are rather pleased than disgusted, when he arrogates to himself those excellencies which he really possesses. It is the part of a mean and artful dissembler, to affect to prejudice us against his writings; whereas we all know human nature too well, to suppose for a moment, that the author is sincere in his professions: seldom do we see a genius of real dignity and worth, but who disdains such shallow devices; I, for my part, when I see an author practising artifices of this nature, in order to prepossess the reader in favour of his modesty, am very apt to take his word for it, and suspect that he really possesses the ignoble mind which he ascribes to himself.

How much more respectable is that character, who, conscious of his own talents and virtues, will maintain them with dignity and steadiness; who will assume that nobleness of mind which he feels is his due? According to the spirited precept of our author,

Sume superbiam quæsitam meritis.

With conscious pride, O muse divine,
Assume the honours justly thine.

Horace, however, in fact, does not often put in practice his own maxim, he only, with an agreeable ease, displays himself nakedly to our view; and who is there of any sensibility, if their thoughts were completely developed, that would not be found often to bestow upon themselves compliments of approbation? As to the well known odes, *Exegi monumentum*; *Non usitata nec tenui ferar*; *Sublimi feriam sidera vertice*, and some other passages, where the author, with great seeming gravity, exalts his own character; in these, there are so much sportiveness and good humour, that we never imagine him altogether serious; he seems rather good naturedly to divert his readers, by raising the laugh against himself. Those, therefore, who charge Horace with want of modesty, do not appear to me to have

done him justice ; this poet, above all others, is particularly anxious not to presume on a subject above his abilities : He shrinks from the thunder of the Pindaric verse ; he often tells us that the levities of love are his proper sphere, and not the mighty deeds of heroes ; he checks his muse for adventuring to sing the praises of Cæsar and Mecenas, lest he should sully them through a defect of genius. In that ode, well known for its sublimity and spirit, *Iustum et tenacem præpositi virum*, he thus concludes :

Quo musa tendis? Desine pervicax
Referre sermones deorum, et
Magna modis tenuare parvis.

But whither would the muse aspire?
Such themes, not suit the sportive lyre,
Nor should the wanton thus in feeble strain,
The councils of the Gods, immortal themes, profane.

And in the 1st ode of the second Book.

Sed ne relictis musa procer jocis,
Cæa retractes munera naniæ;
Mecum Dionæo sub antro
Quære modos leviori plectro.

But thou, my muse, to whom belong
The sportive jest, the jocund song,
Beyond thy province cease to stray,
Nor vain revive the plaintive lay:
Seek humbler measures, indolently laid
With me beneath some love sequester'd shade.

But though this unassuming writer, on these, and many other occasions, disclaims all pretensions to strength of genius, and though it is plain that his disposition leans more to themes of a pleasant and temperate kind, yet frequently do we see him attempt a higher strain, and that, with an animation, which, for its union with delicacy, can seldom be equalled ; of which many examples may be given. In the last quoted ode, when

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ON HORACE.

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complimenting his friend Pollio on his capacity for high descriptions; with much vivacity, he thinks it already pictured before his eyes, and immediately the crowded images of battle are displayed like an unexpected flash.

Jam nunc minaci murmure cornuum
Perstringis aures: Jam litui strepunt:
Jam fulgor armorum fugaces
Terret equos, equitumque vulgus.

Videre magnos jam videor duces
Non indecoro pulvere fordidos;
Et cuncta terrarum subacta
Præter atrocem animum Catonia.

Hark! the shrill clarion's voice I hear;
Its threat'ning murmurs pierce mine ear;
And in the lines with brazen breath,
The trumpet sounds the charge of death;
While the strong splendours of the mind affright
The flying steed, and marr the rider's fight!

Panting with terror, I survey,
The martial host in dread array,
The chiefs, how valiant and how just;
Defil'd with not inglorious dust,
And all the world in chains; but, Cato see
Of spirit unsubdued, and dying to be free.

The concluding idea here is very noble, that every thing may be subdued but an heroic mind. It is an instance of the highest kind of moral sublimity.

In the 15th ode of Book I. Horace seems for a moment to be inspired with all the genius of Homer, and the furious battles of the Iliad rise at once to our view.

Eheu quantus equis, quantus adest viris
Sudor? quanta movet funera Dardaniæ
Genti! Jam galeam Pallas, et ægida,
Curruisque, et rabiem parat.

What toils do men and horse sustain!
What carnage loads the Dardan plain!
Pallas prepares the bounding car,
The shield, the helm, and rage of war.

He raises a picture so lively, as to terrify his own imagination; he is frightened at the dreadful situation of Paris when the heroes pursue him; he reminds him of his danger with an eager solicitude.

Non Laertiadem, exitium tunc
Gentis, non Pylium Nestor respicit?
Urgent impavidi te Salaminius
Teucerque, et Sthenelus sciens
Pugnae.

Look back, and see with furious pace,
That ruin of the Trojan race,
Ulysses drives, and, sage in years,
Fam'd Nestor, hoary chief, appears.
Intrepid Teucer sweeps the field,
And Sthenelus in battle skill'd.

It has been observed by a critic who understood the genius of this poet well, that he often has the art of conveying a whole scene to the fancy by a single expression, more happily than another author would do by the most laboured description of pages. Of this beauty we have a signal instance in the passage under consideration. Paris is still supposed to be under the keen pursuit of his enemies; and the picture of a soft and cowardly spirit in danger, and under imminent apprehension of being taken, is completely expressed in one singularly exquisite line.

Sublimi fugies mollis anhela *.

High panting fly, when they pursue.

The subsequent line is an example of the same kind: But were I to dwell on one ode alone, I would despair of doing proper justice to all its excellencies.

To be continued.

* It is difficult to convey the full meaning of these four words to those who do not understand the original. In the translation much of the spirit is lost, *mollis* is wholly neglected,

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THE MOLE.

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*Observations on Moles, and the most effectual Mode of
extirpating them.*

MOLES are extremely prejudicial in gardens and fields; so that many devices have been adopted for destroying them. The following directions for that purpose appear more simple, and better adapted to the purpose, than any other I have seen, being founded on an attentive observation of the manner of life of this singular animal, and requiring no other apparatus than a common spade. The ingenious author of this account, Mr. Dralet, an advocate in France, informs his readers, that a country man, who had been instructed in this method, which he learnt perfectly in the space of two or three hours, caught, in the course of eight days only, a hundred and sixty moles, in a field belonging to the Count de Fehenfac.

The mole, as every body knows, lives under the earth; if she sometimes rises above ground, it is only when obliged to it by the abundance of rains in the summer, or when the great heat has dried the earth in such a manner that she is no longer able to continue her labour; but she always enters it again, when she has found a more favourable piece of ground.

The mole feeds on worms and roots*; it is owing to this that she is generally to be found in soft ground of a good quality: She neither resides in marshes, nor in stony land.

During the winter, the mole inhabits those places which are elevated, because she is there less exposed to inundations. In summer, she descends from the rising grounds†, and inhabits principally the meadows,

* Is it certain, that moles feed on roots of any sort? I have not observed any fact that seems to confirm this opinion. *Edit.*

† The reader will advert, that the writer of this essay lived in one of the southern provinces of France. *Edit.*

where she finds the ground more fresh, and consequently more easily worked. When there are long droughts, she betakes herself to the sides of ditches, the banks of rivers, and under hedges.

It would seem, that the moles generally couple at the beginning of winter. The months in which the greatest quantity of full grown ones are to be found, are January and February. In April, there appear a great many young ones. Among a hundred and twenty-two, taken in the month of May, by the processes to be shewn hereafter, there were only found four full grown.

The mole cannot live without working; she is obliged, as we have said above, to seek her food in the bowels of the earth; and it is this particularly which obliges her to make these long subterranean roads, which we call mole tracks.

Covered generally with five or six inches of earth, the mole, in going forward, detaches that which she finds in her passage, and leaves it at the sides, till clogged by that superabundant matter, particularly whilst she cuts a road, she must think of disembarassing herself of it; she then gains the surface of the earth, on which, by different blows with her head, and assisted by her nervous hands, she throws up, little by little, that incommodious matter, and thus forms the small heaps we call mole-hills; disengaged in this manner, she departs from this place, to begin her work again; and the farther she advances, and the deeper she goes, the more she multiplies the mole-hills; she usually makes four or five of them at one hunting, —for so we may call her daily labour.

In places covered with grass, she is often contented with making a passage among the roots; and when the earth has been newly watered in gardens, she scarcely covers herself half an inch with earth.

The mole is as much afraid of great cold as of great heat; it is to avoid the one and the other that she goes

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deeper than usual into the earth, alike during the se-
verity of winter, and during the drought of summer.

She works at all seasons, as it is only by working
that she finds nourishment. It is not true that she
sleeps during the whole winter, as some naturalists have
asserted; for she raises the earth in that season as well
as in summer; when the frost is not so intense as to
render the earth impervious to her efforts; when the
earth is covered with snow, she runs along the surface
beneath the snow.

It is at the end of winter that the moles are most ar-
dent in their work, and that they make the greatest
number of mole-hills. There are several reasons for
that; the first is, the necessity of furnishing nourish-
ment to their young, which are brought forth about
that time; the second is, the facility with which they
can then pierce the earth; and, lastly, the third arises
from the air beginning to turn milder, the animal re-
covers the strength which it had lost by the rigour of
the weather. It is then in the spring season that we
must principally endeavour to destroy the mole, since,
as will be shewn, it is whilst working that we can do
it most easily.

The male is a great deal stronger than the female.
The mole-hills which he makes are much larger, and
more numerous than those raised by the female.

It is easy to distinguish the old moles from the young,
by the difference of their work. The young ones
work in a more desultory and irregular manner than
the old.

The mole works with greatest assiduity about sun-
rise and sun-set, and towards mid-day. In times of
drought, they are seldom seen casting the earth but at
sun-rise, and in winter, after the sun has warmed the
earth a little by his rays.

It is easy to know how many moles there are in any
piece of ground whatever, merely by counting the
fresh mole-heaps that have no communication with one

another. And after what has been said, it may be known how many males, females and young ones there are in it.

From these peculiarities in the mode of life of the mole, may be easily deduced the following effectual modes of catching and destroying them.

Manner of operating.

TAKE a turn in the morning round the garden or meadow where you wish to destroy the moles; they are then at work. The mole-hills newly made are proofs of it.

First Case.

IF you happen to be near a mole-hill in the instant that the mole throws up the earth, then use the method known by all gardeners: with a great blow with a spade raise up the mole-hill and the mole, observing to give the blow on the side from which she came, that is to say, on the side of the mole-hills that she had made, before she began to the one she is working at. By this means, the tract is cut before the animal perceives the blow, which prevents it from being able to escape.

But however fresh the mole-hill be, if you are not there positively in the instant when the mole works, do not lose your time in waiting; employ immediately the other means, which are to be shewn.

Second Case.

IF you meet with a mole-hill which is fresh and detached, whose situation shews that it has no communication with others, which happens when the mole has entered from above, in order to form for itself a more commodious habitation than the one it has been obliged to quit, then take away the mole-hill with a spade, and pour a bottle of water into the mouth of the tract. The mole, which cannot be very far off, will rise up to

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MANNER OF DESTROYING MOLES.

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avoid being drowned; and while it is coming out of the hole, you may take it with your hand.

You may ascertain whether there is any communication from a mole-hill to the neighbouring ones, by applying the ear near the tract, and coughing at the same time: If in fact there is no communication, the mole being frightened, will be discovered by its agitation. Then you cannot miss it, either by pouring in water as I have mentioned, or by digging with the spade till you find it: The mole never goes deeper than fifteen or eighteen inches.

Third Case.

It often happens during the summer, in gardens, that when a bed has been newly watered, the mole attracted by the freshness comes there to enter into it; then she forms a tract so near the surface, that you see her in a manner passing it, being scarcely covered with an inch of earth. In this case it is very easy to catch it: While you see it work at the mole-hill, you put your foot upon the tract to shut the passage; you then take away the mole-hill, and you find the mole

Fourth Case the most common.

Whilst you see a mole push at a mole-hill, and whilst you perceive by the earth newly thrown up, that she is at work, you make with a spade an opening about fifteen or eighteen inches long at the place of the track which communicates from that mole-hill to the neighbouring one; call the first mole-hill A, and the second D. The mole track being thus laid open, close both ends of the hole with some earth pushed firmly into it. Make then another opening of the same sort at a small distance from it, with the same precautions. The mole, alarmed by the noise of these operations, never fails to come some moments afterwards to endeavour to repair the damage her work has sustained. When she arrives at one of these openings made with the spade,

she does not continue her route across the opening, because she naturally dislikes to be uncovered, but not being willing to abandon her old track, she endeavours to join it by making a fresh track below the former; she therefore raises a long kind of a mole-hill in the bottom of the trench, by means of which it is easy to discover from which of the two mole-hills she has come; and by making an opening between her and that mole-hill, you effectually cut off her retreat, and are sure to take her.

But while you are digging to catch her, the mole endeavours to escape, by penetrating the earth perpendicularly as far as she can. When you reach this hole, it is unnecessary to dig after her. By pouring some water into the hole, she will immediately come to the surface, where she can be taken without difficulty.

Fifth Case.

Three or more mole-hills are sometimes so connected by mole tracks, as that the mole can go round the whole without interruption, which requires a somewhat different management.

Make several openings like those already described, by which the mole track between two of the hills is laid open, and set yourself to watch. The mole will very soon shew herself at one place or other, and will attempt, as usual, to open a communication to the former track by making a new rut below the former. Her progress in this operation can be easily observed by the motion of the earth. Suffer her to get forward ten or twelve inches; then suddenly close the new made rut behind her, either with your foot, or the handle of a spade put across it, or any other such implement; by which means she cannot retreat; and may be caught up with the spade at the first stroke; or she may be taken by the hand, by merely scraping off the loose earth that is above her.

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These are all the varieties of cases that can occur. When you set about this kind of hunting, it is best to make all the openings you think necessary at once; after that, by walking gently among them, you will catch them one by one, as they commence their operations.

Memoirs of the Society of Agriculture of Paris.

On the uses that may be made of Goutchouc, Elastic Gum, or Indian Rubber, in Arts and Manufactures, with an account of the manner of obtaining and manufacturing it.

THE substance which forms the object of our present disquisition is called *Goutchouc*, by the natives of the country where it is spontaneously produced. It is denominated *elastic gum*, or *elastic resin*, by philosophers in Europe; but it is now generally known in the shops by the name of *Indian rubber*; a substance that few of our readers are not acquainted with. It is a firm, tough, pliable substance, greatly resembling some kinds of leather; but it possesses a degree of elasticity that cannot be equalled by any known substance in nature. It admits of being stretched out in every direction to an astonishing degree; and when the distending power is removed, it recovers its former shape and appearance. It neither can be dissolved in water, in ardent spirits, in acids, nor alkaline liquors, in the ordinary state of our atmosphere. Oils, in some measure, act upon it; but the vitriolic æther is the only complete solvent of it that is as yet known. It is inflammable, and burns with a clear steady flame, emitting then a slight smell, not at all disagreeable. When exposed to a cold air, it is more hard and rigid than under a milder temperature, but it neither becomes fluid, nor loses its elasticity, till it be exposed to a much more

intense degree of heat than is ever experienced in any climate on the globe. It may, however, be melted by a very intense degree of heat; and then it assumes a thick viscid appearance, like some kinds of semi-fluid oils. And having once been reduced to that state, it cannot be again made to acquire its former consistence or elasticity.

This substance is now well known to be the inspissated juice of a tree. The natives in those regions where this tree abounds, extract the juice by making longitudinal incisions in the bark. It bleeds freely, and the juice, in a thick state of semi-fluidity, is collected into vessels placed to receive it at the bottom of the tree. It is then, by means of a brush, spread upon moulds prepared for the purpose, and suffered to dry in the sun, or before a fire, which, by evaporating the moisture, soon brings it to the state in which it is sent over to us. By adding successive layers above each other, it may be brought to any degree of thickness wanted; and by varying the form of the mould, it may be made to assume any shape or appearance you incline; which shape, as has been said, it will ever afterwards retain, if no distending force be applied to alter it.

From this simple detail of facts, it is easy to see, that the uses to which this substance might be applied in arts and manufactures are innumerable, and such as can be effected by no other known substance in nature. Yet so blind have mankind hitherto been to these advantages, that no attempts have been made in any accessible region where extensive manufactures could be established, either to cultivate the tree that produces it, or to induce the natives to send the juice in its fluid state to Europe, where it could be properly manufactured. All that has been done is, to suffer the natives to mould it into the form of a small kind of bottles, which is found to answer some purpose among themselves; and these, when brought to Europe, are applied to scarcely any other use than being cut to pieces for the

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ON COUTCHOUC.

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purpose of effacing marks made upon paper by a black lead pencil, or that of idly amusing children by stretching it out, and observing how perfectly it again recovers its pristine form, after having been distended to a great length in any direction. We amuse ourselves with the phenomena without profiting by it, as children used to be amused with the attraction of amber, before the phenomena of electricity were explained.

It is now time, that we should begin to make some use of this very valuable substance, which, probably, a hundred years hence, will administer in a variety of ways to the accommodation of our descendants. With that view, I shall here venture to point out a few of the useful purposes it may be made to answer; not doubting but the invention of men, whenever they can get the materials in their hands in abundance, will discover a variety of other important purposes it will serve, that have not as yet been dreamt of.

1st. This substance so much resembles leather, that it naturally occurs, that it might be employed for the purpose of making boots. These would not only admit of being made of the neatest shape that could be imagined, but also, by being impervious to water, or the other corrosive liquors above named, would be sufficient to protect men from wet, though standing in water. For seamen, fishermen and others, who are by their business obliged to wade in water, such boots would be of the greatest utility. The feet and legs might thus be protected from the action of even acids or alkaline substances themselves, wherever that should become necessary.

2d. *Gloves* of this substance would be so soft and pliable, as to allow the fingers perfect freedom of action, and in those kinds of businesses, that require artificers to put their hands among acids or corrosive liquors, they may become highly convenient.

3d. *Caps*. The uses that might be made of this substance for defending the head from wet, are infinitely

various, and might prove highly beneficial. A thin covering of this substance might be made for travelling hats, which, without adding any sensible weight, would be perfectly impermeable by wet of any kind. Every other kind of covering for the head, might be thus rendered water tight, merely by giving them a slight coat of coutchouc, which would in no sensible degree alter their other qualities. Bathing caps in particular, could thus be made extremely commodious, and at a small expence. This could be done, by covering with a coat of coutchouc an elastic stocking cap, which, merely by being pulled tight over the head, would embrace every part of it all round, so as to prevent the entrance of water. The stocking and the covering-being equally elastic, they would contract and expand together without any sort of difficulty.

4th. *Umbrellas*.—Neck-pieces of silk, or other materials, cloaks or travelling coats of any sort, that should be judged proper, could thus be rendered perfectly water tight, without destroying their pliability in the smallest degree. It would only be necessary to cover them with a coat of this soft varnish after they were made, so as to close up the seams. Buckets too, all of canvas, or any other cheap substance, might be made water tight and incorruptible, by merely covering them with this matter. Vessels also for holding water and other liquors, that would not be liable to breakage, might thus be made of any size or shape at a small expence. In short, it would take too much room to attempt to enumerate half the uses that might be made of it in the household way.

5th. In the army and navy, its uses would be still more numerous and important. *Tents* are an article of very great expence: The canvas for them must be of the very best quality and closest texture; and after all, they are seldom proof against continued rain. At any rate, the vicissitudes of weather soon rot the canvas, and make a new supply in a short time be necessary.

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Were these tents covered with a coat of this substance, the entrance of rain through it would not only be altogether precluded, but also, the very wetting of the canvas itself would be prevented, and of course its durability be augmented to a tenfold degree. On the same principle, the sails of a ship would not only be made to hold the wind in the most complete manner, but by being covered by a thin coat of it on both sides, the sail-cloth itself could never be wetted, and of course, its durability be augmented, while its flexibility would not be diminished. Other uses to which it could be applied in the army and navy, are so numerous, as not to admit of being here specified. It is only necessary barely to mention, that on a military expedition, to have a vessel capable of containing fluids, which, when empty, admits of being wrapped up like a handkerchief and put into the pocket, might on some occasions be of inestimable value; and the same at sea.

6th. *Aeroflation* is now nearly at a stand; but it is wonderful that no one ever perceived the use that might have been made of this substance for that purpose. No kind of silk, or other light substance could ever be found, that possessed the smallest degree of elasticity; by consequence, when they ascended into the higher regions, the expansion of the gas was in danger of bursting the globe; it was therefore necessary to leave it open below to guard against that accident. A globe of coutchouc would have possessed the quality here wanted; it would have expanded as the circumstances of the case required; and while it was perfectly tight, to prevent the involuntary escape of the smallest quantity, it would have adapted itself in size to every variation of circumstances. It is true, the retentive power of this substance, when very thin, has never yet been ascertained by experience; but there is reason to believe it is very great.

7th. As this substance is inflammable, and burns with a bright flame without requiring any wick, it might be

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employed perhaps with great economy as torches or flambeaux. Solid balls have also been made of it, that are light, and of an amazing degree of elasticity; but what useful purpose could be made of these, does not at present appear. It might also be moulded into the form of riding whips; and would probably answer that purpose admirably well; and after they were wore out, they might be employed as torches.

8th. As a material for surgical purposes, it might be employed on many occasions. *Catheters* have already been made of it, after having been dissolved in æther, that have been found to answer the purpose wanted, and to occasion much less irritation in the parts than those of any other sort that have yet been tried; but the great price, when thus manufactured, prevents them from coming into general use. The little bottles, when applied to the breasts of women distressed with sore nipples, can be so managed, as to occasion a more gentle suction than can be effected any other way, and have therefore afforded very great relief. In short, the variety of uses to which they might be applied, as bags for injecting or for sucking, are too numerous, to admit of being here so much as pointed at.

9th. *Elastic springs*. In all cases where a spring is wanted to act by its *contractile* power, no substance can be conceived more proper, than that of which we now speak, especially in cold climates; and there are innumerable cases in which it might be employed in this manner with the happiest effect, in various kinds of machinery.

10th. It is many years since Dr. Bergius at Stockholm, made some experiments on this substance in Papin's digester: By subjecting it in that way to an intense degree of heat, it is said to have been converted into a hard, elastic, horn-like substance. I have not heard that these experiments have been repeated; but if upon farther trial, this shall be found to be invariably the result, it would extend the utility of this sub-

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stance, far beyond the limits we have hitherto thought of; but in the state of uncertainty that at present prevails on that head, it would be improper to say more.

I might go on at this rate for many pages together, pointing out various other uses to which it might be applied; but I shall content myself with specifying one other only.

Geographical globes are at present an article of great expence, especially when of such a size, as to admit of exhibiting a tolerable view of the earth's surface. These could be made of coutchouc of any size required, at a very moderate expence. The savages of America whom our philosophers represent as destitute of every mental endowment, will teach us the way of proceeding.

The little bottles we import from thence, are formed upon moulds of clay dried in the sun. When the coutchouc has hardened on the surface by the process already described, a little water is introduced at the mouth of the bottle, which gradually softens the clay, and in time allows it to be washed entirely out of it. A globe of clay might be easily moulded of any dimensions required, leaving at one of the poles a small protuberance for a little neck. This ball, when dry, might be covered with coutchouc till it acquired the thickness required; and for the purpose here wanted, this might be very thin. The clay might then be washed out, so as to leave it empty. The remainder of the process might be here described, were I not afraid of encroaching too much on the patience of the reader.

It now only remains, I should give the reader some notices concerning the tree that produces this singular substance.

In no one instance that I know has the inattention of mankind to useful improvements been more conspicuous, than with respect to the object of our present

discussion. It is not much less than sixty years since Mr. de la Condamine first made known to Europeans this singular substance, which possesses qualities that obviously render it one of the most useful bodies that hath ever come to the knowledge of man for many important purposes in life; yet the culture of the plant which affords it, has been, till this moment, entirely neglected by every European nation; nor do I believe, that ever a single seed of it was planted by one person in the universe.

The tree which yields this juice is large and stately. Its trunk is usually about 60 feet in height, and from two to three feet diameter. It grows naturally in Brazil, in French Guiana, and in several other provinces of South America, and also in China, as it is supposed. It is called by the natives *Hevea*, and Mr. Aublet has preserved that name. He calls it *Hevea Guianensis*. It is the *Pao Scringa*, act. Paris, an. 1761. *Fatropba foliis ternatis ellipticis integerrimis subtus canis longe petiolatis*. Lin.—The form of its leaves, and botanical characteristics, will be well understood by the plate. Its seed is a nut, of a pleasing taste, very much resembling that of a filbert, and much esteemed by the natives. The tree grows very freely, and might doubtless be easily reared, were seeds brought hither for that purpose, either in some of the rocky parts of our West India islands, or the Cape Verd islands, or along the coasts of Africa, where there are such extensive tracts of uninhabited country laid waste by the depopulation that our destructive trade in slaves occasions. What a difference would there be in the state of the inhabitants of that unhappy country, were they to be taught to cultivate the arts of peace, and to enrich themselves by industrious labour, instead of those cruel wars fomented by our miserable trade in slaves. Could this juice be had in abundance so near to Europe, it might be sent hither in its fluid state in

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close casks or bottles, so as to be here manufactured for the purposes it were fitted to answer.

Several other trees in those regions afford juices approaching to the nature of the coutchouc, though differing from it in certain respects, which might be applied to other uses in life; but an account of these shall be reserved for another occasion.

To the Editor of the Bee.

SIR,
THE following lines appear to me to merit a place in your weekly miscellany: exclusive of their merit in point of poetical composition, they present us with a view of human nature, which can scarcely fail to excite in every person possessed of even the least portion of sensibility, a mixture of sublime and tender sentiments. We here contemplate one of our species, under circumstances very different from our own, in the face of his tormentors, exulting under the most excruciating tortures. The hostilities and depredations which he and his tribe exercised upon their enemies, are now regarded by him as the pride and glory of his life, and prove an antidote against the sharpest pains of death. The idea of his father, whose spirit he considers as witnessing and applauding his fortitude, warms the bosom of the dying savage, and gives an interest to his sullen and indignant exit, more easily felt than expressed. The whole discovers the hand of a master, and presents us with an affecting picture of uncivilized man. C. T.

The Death-song of the Cherokee Indians.

The sun sets in night, and the stars shun the day,
But glory remains when their lights fade away.
Begin, ye tormentors; your threats are in vain;
For the son of Alknomock will never complain.

Remember the arrows he shot from his bow:
Remember your chiefs, by his hatchet laid low.
Why to flow?—Do you wait till I shrink from the pain?
No.—The son of Alknomock will never complain.

* The air, or simple melody of the original song, of which these lines express the spirit, was, we are told, introduced into England some years ago, by a gentleman of the name of Turner.

Remember the woods where in ambush we lay,
 And the scalp which we bore from your nation away.
 Now the flame rises fast.—You exult in my pain;
 But the son of Alknomeck will never complain.

Now I go to the land where my father is gone:
 His ghost shall rejoice in the fame of his son.
 Death comes like a friend: he relieves me from pain,
 And thy son, O Alknomeck, has scorn'd to complain.

To Robert Burns.

Ah! wherefore dost thou drop the founding lyre,
 That went to set the bosom in a flame;
 That went to fill my soul with noble fire,
 And bade me still at high exertions aim?

In blest philosophy's unerring road,
 I tread the steps of Astronomic lore;
 She leads to nature, and to nature's God,
 Gives joy to youth, to age gives wisdom's store.

Gay thro' the cloud, the sun may dart his ray;
 The moon's mild beam may fill the night illumine;
 And not unworthy—Poetry's soft lay
 May banish darkness from the dungeon's gloom.

But ah! how slow the heavy moments roll;
 Pale expectation lingers on with me;
 Yet—not a line to cheer the drooping soul,
 Nor any song, soft-number'd, comes from thee.

Then, touch again thy easy-moving string;
 Let the soft melody be heard around:
 Sweet as the song of Ossian can't thou sing;
 Well can't thou charm the bosom with the sound.

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REVIEW.

Sacontala, or the Fatal Ring; an Indian Drama, by Calidas. Translated from the original Sanscrit and Pracrit, 4to, 7 s. 6 d. boards. Edwards, 1790.*

THOUGH man's progress in knowledge be attended with certain inconveniencies; yet, as he advances in that career, when his course is properly directed, great are the benefits that may be derived from it. Nations are disjoined from each other on the surface of the globe, by seas, or rivers, or mountains, or inhospitable deserts, and the human affections are alienated from each other by accidental habits, and peculiarities of expression, which, to an ignorant and superficial observer, seem to mark essential differences in the construction of the human mind. Under the disguises which these accidental habits occasion, men who should take delight in mutual acts of assistance and probation, recognise not each other as brethren, but rather meet as enemies prepared to torment and destroy one another. "Blessed are the peace-makers, saith a high authority."—Blessed then are those who by painful researches, tend to remove those destructive veils which have so long concealed mankind from each other, and occasioned this destructive estrangement; who, by discovering the human heart, without disguise, naked as it came out of the hands of the creator, enable all nations, languages, and people, to recognise each other as relations, and induce them to embrace each other as kindred.—The same griefs, the same joy, the same sympathies, the same weaknesses, affect the minds of all people.—We, every where, see the human heart softened by love, exalted by friendship, depressed with sorrow at the misfortunes of others, and elevated with joy at the happiness of those who participate of their affections. And is not the being who feels all these affections, O man! thy brother, and thy equal!

* Though no name of a translator appears in the title page, this is confidentially said to have been the work of Sir William Jones.

Poetry may be said to be the language of the heart. It is among the poems, therefore, of foreign nations, that we are to search for this kind of beneficent knowledge.—And where we can divest ourselves of the prejudices that must frequently occur, from our ignorance of the local modes of expression, and the allusions to the fanciful creations of imagination, that, from ignorance, have, at last, come to be considered as real existences, and from the names of persons, and offices and things to which we are strangers, we will be able to discover beauties that highly interest the heart, among the poems of every nation.—Much, therefore, do we owe to those who make us acquainted with these performances.

Though many dissertations have been written on the drama, its origin still remains involved in obscurity;—and probably, if we attempt to trace it to any single source, it ever must remain unknown.—The truth seems to be, that the personating of different characters is so natural to man, that it must have taken place in a lesser or greater degree among all people.—It is one of the earliest sports to which children have recourse, who, untaught by precept or example, never fail to invent amusements of this sort for themselves. It is, however, only the most interesting dramatic performances of a people considerably advanced in civilization, that have been committed to writing; and even of these, many must have been forgotten, in consequence of changes that have taken place in the language in which they were written, so as to render them unintelligible.

Sir William Jones, since his arrival in India, has discovered a treasure of this sort, which had been formerly unknown to Europeans. He has found, that among the Hindoos, a great number of dramatic performances are still preserved in the Sanscrit language. Some of these possessing beauties, as he alleges, (and he will be allowed to be a competent judge), that would have done no dishonour to Shakespear himself. It will not be expected, that these dramas are constructed upon the precise model of those we have adopted in Europe. Instead of five acts, the only one he has translated, consists of *seven*. This and other lesser particulars are merely accidental variations, that are of no moment. The essentials are a true representation of human

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life, in the most interesting situations; and in this respect, we are assured, they are not deficient.

The drama that has chiefly attracted the attention of Sir William Jones, is called *Sacontala*, or the fatal ring. It was written by a poet of the name of *Calidas*, (the *Shakespeare* of India, as Sir John denominates him), who wrote in the first century before Christ. "These dramas, we are further told, are all written in verse, where the dialogue is elevated, and in prose, where it is familiar; the men of rank and learning are represented speaking pure *sanscrit*, and the women *pracrit*; which is little more than the language of the *Brahmens* melted down by a delicate articulation to the softness of the Italian; while the low persons of the drama speak the vulgar dialects of the several provinces which they are supposed to inhabit."

The outline of this drama is simply as follows: *Dushmanta*, Emperor of India, when hunting near a consecrated forest, meets with *Sacontala*; who, being the daughter of a king by a nymph of the lower heaven, is left by her parents under the care of the hermit *Canna*, a holy man of the most primitive simplicity of manners. The Emperor becomes enamoured of her, and marries her: But being suddenly called to his court, he leaves her in a state of pregnancy; giving her, at the same time, a ring, with the name *Dushmanta* engraved on it. The manner of giving the ring, is thus related by the Emperor: "When I was coming from the holy forest to the capital, my beloved, with tears in her eyes, thus addressed me: How long will the son of my Lord keep me in his remembrance?" Then, fixing this ring on her lovely finger, I thus answered: "Repeat each day, one of the three syllables engraved on this gem; and before thou hast spelled the word *Dushmanta*, one of my noblest officers shall attend thee, and conduct my darling to her palace." The Emperor, however, in consequence of a delusion, resulting from a spell, forgets his promise, and leaves the disconsolate *Sacontala* in her lonely retreat, till at length, *Canna*, induced by some favourite omens, resolves to convey his adopted daughter to the palace, in company with *Guatami*, an old female hermit, and two *Brahmens*. But *Dushmanta*, being still under the in-

fluence of the spell, denies all knowledge of his wife, which involves her in the most exquisite distress.

Sacontala having been informed, that the spell would be removed, whenever the emperor should see the ring, searches for it, with a view to present it to him, but finds it is gone; and having no longer any means of vindicating herself, she is snatched from his presence in an agony of despair. Soon after, the ring, which had fallen into a brook, is brought to the king. On seeing it, the spell is dissolved; he instantly recognizes his wife; but not knowing where to find her, he is greatly affected for her loss. She is, at length, by supernatural assistance, restored to him; and the piece terminates in the happiness of the prince and princess, and the joy of all their people.

The incidents that occur in the unravelling of this plot, are various; and though, to the fastidious European critic, the machinery employed, will be condemned as absurd; yet the poet, in painting the emotions of the human heart, has throughout filled his piece with such delicate touches of nature, as renders it highly interesting. Delicacy and the softest sensibility of heart are the prevailing characteristics of this piece; and these are expressed with a native ease and pathos that are very rarely found in European compositions.

The following extract gives a picture of eastern manners and modes of thinking in particular cases, with which we are little acquainted in Europe. The colouring is inexpressibly delicate and tender. The persons introduced in this scene, are

Sacontala, The Empress.

Anusuya, *Priyamavada*, Female Companions.

Guatami, An ancient Female Hermit.

Canva, The aged Hermit.

Sarnagarava and *Saraswata*, Brahmens.

Scene, The Hermitage.

"*Anusuya*. The shades of night are dispersed; and I am hardly awake: but were I ever so perfectly in my senses, what could I now do? My hands move not readily to the usual occupations of the morning.—Let the blame be cast on love, on love only, by whom

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Our friend has been reduced to her present condition, through a monarch who has broken his word.—Or does the imprecation of Durvasas already prevail?—How else could a virtuous king, who made so solemn an engagement, have suffered so long a time to elapse without sending even a message?—Shall we convey the fatal ring to him?—Or what expedient can be suggested for the relief of this incomparable girl, who mourns without ceasing? Yet what fault has she committed?—With all my zeal for her happiness, I cannot summon courage enough to inform our father Canna, that she is pregnant.—What then, oh! what step can I take to relieve her anxiety?

"Priyamvada enters.

"Pri. Come, Anusuya, come quickly. They are making suitable preparations for conducting Sacontala to her husband's palace.

"Anu. (With surprise.) What say you, my friend?

"Pri. Hear me. I went just now to Sacontala, meaning only to ask if she had slept well—

"Anu. What then? oh! what then?

"Pri. She was sitting with her head bent on her knee, when our father Canna, entering her apartment, embraced and congratulated her.—"My sweet child," said he, "there has been a happy omen: The young Brahmen, who officiated in our morning sacrifice, though his sight was impeded by clouds of smoke, dropped the clarified butter into the very centre of the adorable flame.—Now, since the pious act of my pupil has prospered, my foster-child must not be suffered any longer to languish in sorrow; and this day I am determined to send thee from the cottage of the old hermit who bred thee up, to the palace of the monarch who has taken thee by the hand."

"Anu. My friend, who told Canna what passed in his absence?

"Pri. When he entered the place where the holy fire was blazing, he heard a voice from heaven pronouncing divine measures—

"Anu. (Amazed.) Ah! you astonish me.

"Pri. Hear the celestial verse:—"Know that thy adopted daughter, O pious Brahmen, has received from Dushmanta a ray of glory destined to rule the world; as the wood Sami becomes pregnant with mysterious fire."

"Anu. (Embracing Priyamvada.) I am delighted, my beloved; I am transported with joy. But—since they mean to deprive us of our friend so soon as to-day, I find that my delight is at least equalled by my sorrow.

"Pri. Oh! we must submit patiently to the anguish of parting. Our beloved friend will now be happy; and that should console us.

"Anu. Let us now make haste to dress her in bridal array. I have already, for that purpose, filled the shell of a cocoa nut, which you see fixed on an Amra tree, with the fragrant dust of Nagaceśvara: Take it down, and keep it in a fresh lotus leaf, whilst I collect some Gorakṣana from the forehead of a sacred cow, some earth from conse-

erated ground, and some fresh Cusa grafts, of which I will make a paste to ensure good fortune.

"Pri. By all means.

(She takes down the perfume.—Anusuya goes out.)
Behind the Scenes. O Gautami, bid the two Mitras, Saragarava and Saradwata, make ready to accompany my child Sacontala.

"Pri. (Listening.) Lose no time, Anusuya, lose no time. Our father Canna is giving orders for the intended journey to Hastinapura.

"Anusuya re-enters with the ingredients of her churn.

"Ann. I am here: let us go, my Priyamvada. They both advance.

"Pri. (Looking.) There stands our Sacontala, after her bath at sun-rise, while many holy women, who are congratulating her, carry baskets of hallowed grain.—Let us hasten to greet her.

"Enter Sacontala, Gautami, and female Hermits.

"Sac. I prostrate myself before the goddess.

"Gaut. My child, thou canst not pronounce too often the word goddess: thus wilt thou procure great felicity for thy lord.

"Herm. Mayst thou, O royal bride, be delivered of a hero?

(The Hermits go out,

"Both damsels. (Approaching Sacontala.) Beloved friend, was your bath pleasant?

"Sac. O! my friends, you are welcome: let us sit a while together. They seat themselves.

"Ann. Now you must be patient, whilst I bind on a charm to secure your happiness.

"Sac. That is kind.—Much has been decided this day: and the pleasure of being thus attended by my sweet friends, will not soon return. Wiping off her tears.

"Pri. Beloved, it is unbecoming to weep at a time when you are going to be so happy.—Both damsels burst into tears, as they dress her. Your elegant person deserves richer apparel: It is now decorated with such rude flowers as we could produce in this forest.

"Canna's pupil enters with rich clothes.

"Pup. Here is a complete dress. Let the queen wear it auspiciously; and may her life be long! (The women look with astonishment.)

"Gaut. My son, Harita, whence came this apparel?

"Pup. From the devotion of our father Canna.

"Gaut. What dost thou mean?

"Pup. Be attentive. The venerable sage gave this order: "Bring fresh flowers for Sacontala from the most beautiful trees:" and suddenly the wood-nymphs appeared, raising their hands, which rivalled new leaves in beauty and softness. Some of them wove a lower mantle bright as the moon, the presage of her felicity; another pressed the juice of Laccha to stain her feet exquisitely red; the rest were busied in forming the gayest ornaments; and they eagerly showered their gifts on us.

"Pri. (Looking at Sacontala.) Thus it is, that even the bee, whose nest is within the hollow trunk, does homage to the honey of the lotos flower.

"Gaut. The nymphs must have been commissioned by the goddess of the king's fortune, to predict the accession of brighter ornaments in his palace. (Sacontala looks made).

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1791. SACOTALA; OR THE FATAL RING. 117

"Pur. I must hasten to Canna, who is gone to bathe in the Ma-
lini, and let him know the signal kindness of the wood-nymphs.

He goes out.

"Anu. My sweet friend, I little expected so splendid a dress:—how
shall I adjust it properly?—(Considering.)—Oh! my skill in painting will
supply me with some hints; and I will dispose the drapery according to art.

"Sac. I know well your affection for him.

Canna enters meditating.

"Can. (Aside.) This day must Sacotala depart: that is resolv-
ed; yet my soul is smitten with anguish.—My speech is interrupted
by a torrent of tears, which my reason suppresses and turns inward; my
very sight is dimmed.—Strange, that the affliction of a forester, retired
from the haunts of men, should be so excessive!—Oh, with what pangs
must they, who are fathers of families, be afflicted on the departure of
a daughter! (He walks round musing.)

"Pri. Now, my Sacotala, you are becomingly decorated. Put on
this lower veil, the gift of sylvan goddesses.

(Sacotala rises and puts on the mantle.

"Gaut. My child, thy spiritual father, whose eyes overflow with
tears of joy, stands desiring to embrace thee. Hasten therefore to do
him reverence. (Sacotala modestly bows to him.)

"Can. Mayst thou be cherished by thy husband, as Sarmishta was
cherished by Yayati! Mayst thou bring forth a sovereign of the world,
as she brought forth Puru!

"Gaut. This, my child, is not a mere benediction; it is a boon ac-
tually conferred.

"Can. My best beloved, come and walk with me round the sacrifi-
cial fire.—(They all advance.) May these fires preserve thee! Fires
which spring to their appointed stations on the holy hearth, and con-
sume the consecrated wood, while the fresh blades of mysterious Gusa
lie scattered around them!—Sacramental fires, which destroy sin with
the rising fumes of clarified butter!—(Sacotala walks with solemn-
ity round the hearth.) Now set out, my darling, on thy auspicious jour-
ney.—(Looking round) Where are the attendants, the two Mifras?

Enter Saragarava and Saradwata.

"Both. Holy sage, we are here.

"Can. My son Saragarava, shew thy sister her way.

"Sarn. Come, damsel—

(They all advance.

"Can. Hear, O ye trees of this hallowed forest; ye trees, in which
the sylvan goddesses have their abode; hear, and proclaim, that Sa-
cotala is going to the palace of her wedded lord: she who drank not,
though thirstily, before you were watered; she who cropped not, through
affection for you, one of your fresh leaves, though she would have been
pleased with such an ornament for her locks; she whose chief delight
was in the season, when your branches are spangled with flowers!

Chorus of invisible wood-nymphs

"May her way be attended with prosperity! May propitious breezes
sprinkle, for her delight, the odoriferous dust of rich blossoms! May
pools of clear water, green with the leaves of the lotos, refresh her as
she walks; and may shady branches be her defence from the scorching
sun's rays!

(All listen with admiration.

" *Sarn.* Was that the voice of the Cocila wishing a happy journey to Scontala?—Or did the nymphs, who are allied to the pious inhabitants of these woods, repeat the warbling of the musical bird, and make its greeting their own?

" *Gau.* Daughter, the sylvan goddesses, who love their kindred hermits, have wished you prosperity, and are entitled to humble thanks.

(Scontala walks round, bowing to the nymphs.)

" *Sac.* (*Aside to Priyamvada.*) Delighted as I am, O Priyamvada, with the thought of seeing again the son of my lord, yet, on leaving this grove, my early asylum, I am scarcely able to walk.

" *Pri.* You lament not alone.—Mark the affliction of the forest itself, when the time of your departure approaches!—The female antelope browses no more on the collected Cusa grass; and the peahen ceases to dance on the lawn; the very plants of the grove, whose pale leaves fall on the ground, lose their strength and their beauty.

" *Sac.* Venerable father, suffer me to address this Madhavi creeper, whose red blossoms inflame the grove.

" *Gau.* My child, I know thy affection for it.

" *Sac.* (*Embracing the plant.*) O most radiant of twining plants, receive my embraces, and return them with thy flexible arms. From this day, though removed to a fatal distance, I shall for ever be thine.—O beloved father, consider this creeper as myself.

" *Gau.* My darling, thy amiable qualities have gained thee a husband equal to thyself: such an event has been long, for thy sake, the chief object of my heart; and now, since my solicitude for thy marriage is at an end, I will marry thy favourite plant to the bridegroom Amra, who sheds fragrance near her.—Proceed my child, on thy journey.

" *Sac.* (*Approaching the two damsels.*) Sweet friends, let this Madhavi creeper be a precious deposit in your hands.

" *Anu. and Pri.* Alas! in whose care shall we be left?

They both weep.

" *Gau.* Tears are vain, Anushya: our Scontala ought rather to be supported by our firmness, than weakened by your weeping.

(*All advance.*)

" *Sac.* Father! when yon female antelope, who now moves slowly from the weight of the young ones with which she is pregnant, shall be delivered of them, send me, I beg, a kind message, with tidings of her safety.—Do not forget.

" *Gau.* My beloved, I will not forget it.

" *Sac.* (*Advancing, then stopping.*) Ah! what is it that clings to the skirts of my robe and detains me? (*She turns round and looks.*)

" *Gau.* It is thy adopted child, the little fawn, whose mouth, when the sharp points of Cusa grass had wounded it, has been so often smeared by thy hand with the healing oil of Ingudi; who has been so often fed by thee with a handful of Syamaka grains, and now will not leave the footsteps of his protectress.

" *Sac.* Why dost thou weep, tender fawn, for me, who must leave our common dwelling-place?—As thou wast reared by me when thou hadst lost thy mother, who died soon after thy birth, so will my foster-

father attend thee, when we are separated, with anxious care.—Return, poor thing, return—we must part.

(She bursts into tears.)

"Can. Thy tears, my child, ill suit the occasion: we shall all meet again: be firm; see the direct road before thee, and follow it.—When the big tear lurks beneath thy beautiful eye-lashes, let thy resolution check its first efforts to disengage itself.—In thy passage over this earth, where the paths are now high, now low, and the true path seldom distinguished, the traces of thy feet must needs be unequal; but virtue will press thee right onward.

"Sara. It is a sacred rule, holy sage, that a benevolent man should accompany a traveller till he meet with abundance of water; and that rule you have carefully observed: we are now near the brink of a large pool. Give us, therefore, your commands, and return.

"Can. Let us rest a while under the shade of this Vata tree.—
(They all go to the shade.)—What message can I send with propriety to the noble Duhmanta?

(He meditates.)

"Anu. (Aside to Sagontala.) My beloved friend, every heart in our asylum is fixed on you alone, and all are afflicted by your departure.—Look, the bird Chacravaca, called by his mate, who is almost hidden by water lilies, gives her no answer; but having dropped from his bill the fibres of lotus stalks which he had plucked, gazes on you with inexpressible tenderness.

"Can. My son Sarngarava, remember, when thou shalt present Sagontala to the king, to address him thus, in my name: "Considering us hermits as virtuous, indeed, but rich only in devotion, and considering also thy own exalted birth, retain thy love for this girl, which arose in thy bosom without any interference of her kindred; and look on her among thy wives with the same kindness which they experience; more than that cannot be demanded; since particular affection must depend on the will of heaven."

"Sara. Your message, venerable man, is deeply rooted in my remembrance.

"Can. (Looking tenderly at Sagontala.) Now, my darling, thou too must be gently admonished.—We, who are humble foresters, are yet acquainted with the world which we have forsaken.

"Sara. Nothing can be unknown to the wife.

"Can. Hear, my daughter.—When thou art settled in the mansion of thy husband, shew due reverence to him, and to those whom he reveres: though he have other wives, be rather an affectionate handmaid to them than a rival. Should he displease thee, let not thy resentment lead thee to disobedience.—In thy conduct to thy domestics, be rigidly just and impartial, and seek not eagerly thy own gratifications.—By such behaviour young women become respectable: but perverse wives are the bane of a family.—What thinks Gautami of this lesson?

"Gaut. It is incomparable:—my child, be sure to remember it,

"Can. Come, my beloved girl, give a parting embrace to me, and to thy tender companions.

"Sac. Must Anusuya and Priyamvada return to the hermitage?

"Can. They too, my child, must be suitably married; and it would not be proper for them yet to visit the city; but Gautami will accompany thee.

"*Sac.* (*Embracing him.*) Removed from the bosom of my father, like a young sandal tree rent from the hills of Malaya, how shall I exist in a strange soil?

"*Can.* Be not so anxious. When thou shalt be mistress of a family, and consort of a king, thou mayst, indeed, be occasionally perplexed by the intricate affairs which arise from the exuberance of wealth, but will then think lightly of this transient affliction, especially when thou shalt have a son (and a son thou wilt have) bright as the rising day star.—Know also with certainty, that the body must necessarily at the appointed moment, be separated from the soul: who, then, can be immoderately afflicted, when the weaker bounds of extrinsic relations are loosened, or even broken?

"*Sac.* (*Falling at his feet.*) My father, I thus humbly declare my veneration for you.

"*Can.* Excellent girl, may my effort for thy happiness prove successful.

"*Sac.* (*Approaching her two companions.*) Come then, my beloved friends, embrace me together. (*They embrace her.*)

"*Ana.* My friend, if the virtuous monarch should not at once recollect you, only shew him the ring on which his name is engraved.

"*Sac.* (*Starting.*) My heart shudders at the bare apprehension which you have raised.

"*Pri.* Fear not, sweet Sacontala: love always raises ideas of misery, which are seldom or never realised.

"*Sarn.* Holy Gage, the sun has risen to a considerable height: let the queen hasten her departure.

"*Sac.* (*Again embracing Canna.*) When, my father, oh! when again shall I behold this asylum of virtue?

"*Can.* Daughter, when thou shalt long have been wedded, like this fruitful earth, to the pious monarch, and shalt have born him a son, whose car shall be matchless in battle, thy lord shall transfer to him the burden of the empire, and thou, with thy Dushmanta, shalt again seek tranquillity before thy final departure, in this loved and consecrated grove.

"*Gaut.* My child, the proper time for our journey passes away rapidly: suffer thy father to return.—Go, venerable man, go back to thy mansion, from which he is doomed to be so long absent.

"*Can.* Sweet child, this delay interrupts my religious duties.

"*Sac.* You, my father, will perform them long without sorrow; but I, alas! am destined to bear affliction.

"*Can.* O! my daughter, compel me not to neglect my daily devotions.—(*Sighing.*) No, my sorrow will not be diminished.—Can it cease my beloved, when the plants that rise luxuriantly from the hallowed graves which rise luxuriantly before my cottage, are continually in my sight?—Go, and may thy journey prosper.

(*Sacontala goes out with Gautami and the two Mistras.*)
 "*Both damsels.* (*Looking after Sacontala with anguish.*) Alas! alas! our beloved is hidden by the thick trees.

"*Can.* My children, since your friend is at length departed, check your immoderate grief, and follow me. (*They all turn back.*)

To be concluded in our next.

RING, March 23,
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THE BEE,

OR

LITERARY WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER,

FOR

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30. 1791.

On the Pleasures of Connubial Love.

—Neither her outside form'd so fair,
So much delights me as those graceful acts,
Those thousand decencies that daily flow
Thro' all her words and actions, mix'd with love
And sweet compliance, which declare unfeigned
Union of mind, or in us both one soul.

Par. Lest, viii. 396.

LOVE is a term sometimes of very extensive, sometimes of very limited signification. I mean, by the word, that attachment between the sexes which has the whole person for its objects. This attachment is compounded of various emotions and desires. It includes ADMIRATION of personal charms and accomplishments; of mental talents and acquirements; ESTEEM of good dispositions of heart; DESIRE of possession; of promoting happiness; and of becoming the object of the same emotions and desires in the party beloved. The desire of possession takes its rise from the sensual appetite.

VOL. II.

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This appetite does, by no means, constitute love; though the term has been sometimes limited to that signification; but it is an essential ingredient in the composition of love. A kind of friendship supposed to subsist between man and woman, more tender than that between man and man, but entirely divested of sensual appetite, is, I believe, what is distinguished by the name of Platonic love. It is doubted, whether an attachment of this description exists in nature. Friendship between man and woman can differ from that which may take place between man and man, only in so far as it is impregnated with sensual passion. That passion may be mixed in such a small proportion as not to be perceived; or if it be, it is not acknowledged, but disguised under the names of soft desire, tender affection, and the like. But when the attachment grows to a certain height, the several ingredients of which it is composed are more distinctly perceived, and then the sensual appetite manifestly discovers itself.

As love prompts us strongly to promote the happiness of its object, we must experience a high delight in the gratification of this desire. In the intercourse between the sexes, according as either party is conscious of a pleasurable sensation, the other is conceived to be similarly affected; and in proportion to the desire which each has to give pleasure to the other, each must feel a high enjoyment in the consciousness of contributing to the pleasure of the other. This reflex feeling affords a much higher degree of enjoyment, than what results immediately from the corporeal sensation: And as it is of a more generous kind, the reflection on it, after it is past, yields a satisfaction which never accompanies the reflection on enjoyments merely selfish. Where there is no disinterested attachment between the parties, this reflex feeling subsists only in a very low degree. This is one reason of the little enjoyment that is found in the embraces of a harlot, one

March 30,

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for whom you have no affection, and whose pleasure you have no disinterested desire to promote.

Love covets a return of affection, and is ever dissatisfied without it. Hence the impatience of rivalry, and the high delight which attends the persuasion of possessing the whole undivided affection of a beloved object. Every circumstance in the behaviour of the party beloved, which furnishes a proof of such return of affection, strengthens this persuasion, and heightens the pleasure it yields. Many of the strongest proofs that can be given of a sincere preference, and ardent return of affection, occur in the personal gratifications of connubial love; and in this view they contribute greatly to enhance the pleasure it affords. Hence appears another cause of the insipidity of the harlot's mercenary embrace: You are sensible that she gives you no preference to another; for her favours are bestowed for hire, and are prostituted alike to all.

The contemplation of personal charms has a powerful influence in strengthening the passion for personal enjoyment, and heightening the pleasure of gratification. This is easily accounted for from the sympathy between the bodily senses. When one sense is highly gratified, the others are the more disposed to find their gratification in the same object. Fruit that is fair to the eye, and fragrant to the smell, is expected to be also sweet to the taste. If the senses find that gratification which was expected, the enjoyment felt by each is greater than it would have been, had any of them been gratified singly. The enamoured swain conceives the object of his passion to be fitted to gratify every external sense. Her shape and complexion, the touch of her skin, the taste of her lip, the perfume of her breath, and the sound of her voice, charm the several senses to which they are respectively addressed. All these gratifications, whether real or imaginary, being combined, heighten the pleasure resulting from the gratification of connubial intercourse.

It is also true, that the contemplation of mental endowments and agreeable dispositions, which are the objects of admiration and esteem, contributes not a little to increase the pleasure of personal enjoyment. The fact is easily ascertained. No man surely can find the same pleasure in the embrace of an idiot or of a termagant, as in that of a woman of sense and good nature. It is only classing the moral sense along with the external senses, in the account that has been just given of the latter, and this phenomenon is accounted for also. Personal charms may be found in a harlot in perfection. She may possess also many mental accomplishments: But the enjoyment, which might be expected from these, is impaired in a very considerable degree, by the consideration of their being prostituted and abused.

These observations apply, not equally indeed, but partly, to both sexes. In pursuing the analysis of the feelings in question, we must not overlook a painful sensation, peculiar perhaps to the female, which may be supposed, at first thought, to detract from the pleasures of connubial love, but will be found, on inquiry, to add to those pleasures considerably.

As the appetite for sex is the most importunate in the human frame, and the most apt to run into pernicious excesses, the indulgence of it is guarded by the restraints of chastity and modesty. These terms have been often confounded together, or, at least, have been understood to imply each other. A few illustrations will suffice to discriminate them. It is evidently the intention of nature, that, in the human race, as in many other species of animals, the sexes should pair. For this end, there is implanted in the soul a moral principle which prohibits the promiscuous indulgence of the sensual appetite. This moral principle is CHASTITY. MODESTY, in a general sense, is that *feeling* which makes a person avoid public notice: In a more restricted sense, it is that feeling which makes a person

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shrink from the public indulgence of the sensual appetite, and from the acknowledgement of sensual desires or thoughts. It leads its possessor to seek retirement in all acts of sensual indulgence; and to study secrecy and concealment in every thing that respects the carnal appetite. Illicit amours are transgressions of the laws of chastity; but if they are private, they are not violations of modesty. Married persons are chaste, if they confine their desires of sensual indulgence to the enjoyment of each others person; but they trespass against modesty, if they gratify those desires before others. An obscene object, which excites irregular desires, does violence to chastity: the same object, seen without any such emotion, does not. An obscene object seen in public, offends modesty; not because it excites sensual ideas, but because it discovers to the spectators that your thoughts are then employed about such ideas: the same object, seen in private, cannot be said, strictly speaking, to hurt modesty. In the earliest ages of society, when the manners are most simple, *modesty* is little known, but *chastity* is often strictly observed. In those periods when refinement and luxury have made greater advances, the dictates of modesty are more studiously attended to; those of chastity, less. When a total corruption of manners prevails, chastity and modesty both disappear. So much for the discrimination and illustration of those two guardians of female conduct.

Both chastity and modesty may be strengthened or weakened, in one individual more than another, or in one sex more than in another, by education and habit. In the female sex, where they are most cherished, and their influence is combined, they gradually generate an abhorrence of every thing that tends toward sensual indulgence, without any exception or limitation whatever. The idea itself is considered as impure: it is detested as a corrupter of the heart; and is never admitted into the thoughts but with reluctance, nor har-

hourd without self-condemnation. Modesty takes the alarm at the slightest personal freedoms; and the whole male sex are debarred, even in idea, from those favours to which none has yet acquired a right. The principle of chastity may thus extend its restrictions farther than nature warrants. Nature teaches that the promiscuous indulgence of the sensual appetite ought to be checked; but not that the appetite should be condemned altogether as vile and immoral. Still, however, the reluctance to such indulgence, which has been long cherished in the female breast, is not easily laid aside. Virgin chastity still recoils at deeds, to which it has been accustomed to annex the ideas of grossness and turpitude: and virgin modesty shrinks back from those freedoms with which it used to be shocked. Though this reluctance is at last overcome by the force of personal attachment and appetite combined; yet the feelings must be sorely hurt in the first encounters, till repetition has removed the prejudices of education, and familiarity has rendered the participation of the beloved object not inconsistent with that privacy which modesty requires.

This pain which attends the violence done to the feelings, so far from diminishing the pleasures of connubial love, increases them on both sides. On the woman's side, it is attended with a pleasing consciousness of having preserved inviolate her modesty and her chastity; and she has the satisfaction of now presenting these most grateful offerings to the man for whom alone she would have made such a sacrifice. The man, perceiving this painful feeling, which shews itself in some involuntary shyness and reserve, receives it as a proof of purity of heart; and as a testimony of the ardour of that passion, by which even long settled habits of judging and of feeling are rapidly borne down. This is a charm of which the harlot is totally destitute. To chastity she has no pretensions; and if she venture to assume the appearance of modest reserve, the grossness

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parent, only serves to heighten disgust.

N. C.

*Man, as unconnected with Society, compared with other
Animals.*

To the Editor of the Bee.

SIR,

We generally read with pleasure any thing written
by another which favours any of our own opinions. I
felt something of this upon reading your essay on peri-
odical performances, in which you shew how much
man is indebted to instruction for his present superiori-
ty to other animals.

I differ from you only in this; instead of thinking
that if an elephant, and the *lowest* individual as to intel-
lectual powers among the human species, had been left
entirely to themselves as individuals, that the elephant
would have been the wisest. I am persuaded that a man
possessed of the *most extensive* intellectual powers would
not have excelled the elephant, and in many cases
would have been in much worse circumstances than
the elephant, and than many other of the brutes far
inferior to him in sagacity, if left *entirely* to himself.

The powers of the mind must have some object to
act upon as well as the senses of the body; and the
mind of a man left *entirely* to himself, could be fur-
nished with objects only from things in nature which
fell under his own observation, and of these he could
judge only by the manner in which they affected his
senses. But how contracted man's knowledge arising
from this source must have been, appears from that of
those who, beside possessing great mental powers, en-
joy the benefit of education. And who knows how
very absurd notions might have arisen from the fertile

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imaginings of a Plato or an Aristotle, had they been left entirely to themselves.

The extent of mental powers, possessed by the ancient philosophers, it will be universally allowed, did not secure to them the discovery of truth. And from the great extent to which many of them possessed these, had they been left *wholly* to themselves, (in which case, as is above said, they could judge of nothing but by the manner in which it affected their outward senses, which certainly are the only channels in which instruction is conveyed to the mind) their minds would probably have been filled with ideas worse than total ignorance. The human mind is framed to receive instruction; but being, in its natural state, incapable of judging betwixt truth and error, it is susceptible of either.

Such considerations as these, have frequently led me to think, that those nations which worship the sun and moon are, of all other idolaters, most excusable, if I may speak so. The sun's appearance being so glorious, and the happy influences of it, both in diffusing light, and producing vegetation, being so sensibly felt by them, no wonder that their minds rested, and continue to rest there. It is observable, at same time, that worshipping these heavenly bodies, and the manner in which this is to be performed, does not arise from the effect which these bodies make upon their minds, but is as much a matter of instruction among them, as the sciences are among us.

Man's knowledge being so limited and corrupted, he could not be said to be in reality *wiser* than the elephant; for wrong opinions are certainly worse than none. But further, he must as an animal have been in much worse circumstances than the elephant, and than many other, if not all the other animals. Being destitute of those instincts which the brutes possess, he is incapable of knowing what is useful or hurtful to him,

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so much as to approach with indifference the most hurtful objects.

This indeed would, in some measure, be overcome by experience; but against this the brutes are secured by their instincts. An instance of this, and of man's ignorance, we have in the history of the Polar bear, as written by some anonymous authors, and published at Newcastle last year. "The Kamtschadales," say they, "acknowledge infinite obligations to the bears, for all the little progress they have hitherto made, as well in the sciences as the polite arts. They confess themselves indebted wholly to those animals for all their knowledge in physic and surgery; that by observing what herbs they have applied to the wounds they have received, and what methods they have pursued when they were languid and out of order, they have acquired a knowledge of most of those simples, which, they have now recourse to, either as external or internal applications."

An instance of the sagacity of another animal, as given us by Vaillant in his account of his travels, which, though it is just now published in an abridgement of that work, yet, as many of your readers may not see it perhaps, I shall transcribe it: "An animal," says he, "which rendered me still more essential service than my cook, was a monkey, of that kind known at the Cape under the name of *bawians*. I made him my taster. Whenever we found any fruits or roots, unknown to my Hottentots, we presented them to *Kees*; if rejected by him, we concluded them noxious." From this it appears, that they never found any thing hurtful which *Kees* accepted.

This defect of natural knowledge in man, is amply compensated for by the communicative faculty, as you justly observe. Man possesses powers which enable him to receive instruction to a much greater extent than the most sagacious brutes, but without instruc-

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tion, these would have been nearly, if not entirely
lost.

This observation is supported by a well known fact, viz. that the extent and progress of knowledge in a state, bear a proportion to the freedom of its government, and its intercourse with other nations. Where a government prevents its subjects from communicating their ideas to each other with freedom, and from communicating with other countries in their respective discoveries, their knowledge must be limited, and its progress prevented. The same may be said of that nation, which, though not under such a government, yet excludes itself by prejudice from intercourse with other nations.

This leads to another reflection, which, though obvious, is too seldom thought of, viz. that the superiority of one country to another, is wholly owing to the advantages of superior means of instruction, and the freedom of communication. We too often consider the uncivilized part of mankind as creatures of an inferior rank to us, as it is expressed by a poet.

"Thoughtless these, scarce men accounted."

Their minds, however, are certainly as capable of being improved as ours. They only want that which gives us the superiority, instruction, and freedom of communication with other nations. Of this last they are, I apprehend, deprived by their prejudices, not by their form of government. In their present state, however, they are instances of what we would have been, had we laboured under the same disadvantages.

Queries. Do the proprietors of slaves instruct them, or do they find it most for their advantage to keep them in ignorance? If so, Can any practice be vindicated which tends to keep any of the human race in ignorance, while we have an opportunity of instructing them? And whether is the amazing wealth by the ig-

ANIMALS. March 30.
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norance of our fellow creatures, most worthy the en-
lightened mind, or the sharing the profits of a lucrative
business with them, and storing their minds with useful
knowledge †? But to return.

I think you have given us a striking proof of the
equality of the powers of the human mind in every na-
tion, in the account which you give of the Moors in
Spain, which I wish you to continue.

When their princes acted as every governor ought,
ruling for the good of their subjects, and encouraging
every thing which tended to promote this; and when
they, under a sense of the benefits arising from this,
served their princes from love,—the most effectual in-
citement, then they attained a great degree of refine-
ment: But now when their prince, instead of "bear-
ing witness to the laws," as Abi Abdallah Mahomed
did, rules by his own will; and when he, instead of
being "the friend and benefactor of his people," and
of recommending himself to them by his virtue, lives
licentiously, and rules them with tyranny and barba-
rity, sacrificing their interests to gratify his own desires,
they are reduced to a state of the greatest ignorance
and cruelty.

The mutual jealousy which must be the consequence
of the people's oppression, and of the prince's uncertain-
ty as to his safety, which will arise from a conscious-
ness of his own tyranny, must tend greatly to confine
them to that state of ignorance. Being thus deprived
of the means of improvement, they are an evidence of
the great obligations which we owe to freedom of in-
ternal and foreign communication.

In a consistency with these my sentiments, I heartily
wish success to your laudible attempt to promote use-
ful knowledge; and if you think these remarks may

† I allude to giving them their liberty, and paying them wages.

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have any tendency this way, though it can be but very
little I acknowledge, they are at your service.

I would only add this reflection: As man's know-
ledge of the things of this world would be so very con-
tracted, if left *wholly* to himself, he certainly could
never have conceived of such an infinite exertion as
creating Power, nor of a future state. For the know-
ledge of both these truths, we are, I am persuaded,
wholly indebted to Divine Revelation.

To acknowledge an incapacity to discover these, is
not unworthy of the greatest philosopher, as it is only
acknowledging his obligations for instruction to the
great Creator of these objects of his wonder and admi-
ration,—the heavens and the earth,—to that Being who
hath raised him superior to the rest of mankind, by a
more enlarged degree of mental powers. I am,

SIR,

Edinburgh, February }
1791. }

A READER.

To the Editor of the Bee.

On the nature of the substance called Shot Stars.

A CORRESPONDENT of yours asks, What is the sub-
stance called *shot stars*? In answer to which, I acquaint
him it has been till lately thought to be of a vegetable
nature, and characterised by Linnæus, *Tremella nolioc-
plicata undulata*, *Tremella mesenteriformis*, in *plicas
multiplices intorta*.

I have often examined this gelatinous substance, but
found no traces of vegetation. When distilled, it yields
volatile salt and impyreumatic oil, which shews it is
an animal production: I am confirmed in my opinion,
from a note in the monthly review, for April 1789,
page 340; which I have transcribed for the use of your
numerous readers.

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ANIMALS. March 30,
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1791. ON THE TREMELLA NOSTOC. 133

"*Tremella*.—I have frequently observed fungusses of this genus on old rails, and on the ground, to become a transparent jelly, after they have been frozen in autumnal mornings, which is a curious property, and distinguishes them from other vegetable mucilage; for I have observed, that the paste made by boiling wheat flour in water, ceases to be adhesive, after being frozen. I suspected that the *Tremella Nostoc* or Star Jelly, had been thus produced; but have since been well informed, that the *Tremella Nostoc* is a mucilage voided by herons after they have eaten frogs: hence, it has the appearance of having been pressed through a hole; and limbs of frogs are said sometimes to be found amongst it: It is always seen upon plains or by the sides of water, places which herons generally frequent."

To the Editor of the Bee.

On the importance of the principle of Piety.

SIR,

I AM well pleased to see that you are not ashamed to speak of a spirit of piety with becoming respect. In your account of the Moors in Spain, though you seem in no degree prepossessed in favour of the particular tenets they adopted, you pay a due deference to the piety so conspicuous in their inscriptions. This is as it should be. I esteem you the more for it; and every sensible person who reads your work, will do so as well as myself.

I have thought, however, that when in your first number you set about distinguishing man from other animals, you could not have selected a circumstance that would have more effectually done this than the principle of PIETY. Other animals are in some degree capable of instruction, and evidently make a certain progress in their ideas, by reasoning from experience: But man alone is capable of stretching his ideas beyond this

sublunary world, and of experiencing in any degree the consolations of piety. He alone can form an idea of an almighty beneficent being, who delights in conferring happiness on all his creatures. It is man alone, who, in contemplating the divine perfections, feels it impossible to withhold that spontaneous homage and grateful adoration which constitutes the essence of true piety. From this source he derives a consolation in all afflictions, and a solace in every distress. When mankind through ignorance or error forsake or condemn him: When all before him is darkness, and a gloomy foreboding of future distress impresses his mind with a melancholy tending to despair, he then flies to this Supreme Being for relief. He pours forth his soul at the throne of mercy, and if conscious of rectitude of mind, he exults in the internal perception, that though all created beings should unjustly blame him, yet to the unerring judge of all the universe, to whose all seeing eye the inmost thoughts of his heart have been open at all times, their testimony availeth nothing. His weaknesses he feels; the accidental deviations from purity which the frailties of mortality have induced, he sincerely deplores; but while his intentions were upright, he cannot doubt of these lesser errors being forgiven. To man is thus opened up an unfailing source of consolation, of which no human power can deprive him. In the depth of the severest affliction, he can look up to his God and protector with comfort. From the darkness of the closest dungeon his voice will be heard; and while surrounded with every possible distress, he can look forward with tranquillity to that awful event which shall put a final period to his earthly sufferings, and administer to him an entrance into the mansions of the blest.

Surely it is humane in man to endeavour to cherish these ideas, since they tend to give such an extensive enlargement to the sphere of human bliss. And I trust that you, Sir, who have ever expressed a warm satis-

March 30,

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1791.

ON PIETY.

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faction in alleviating human misery, will take a particular pleasure in cherishing a spirit of piety among your readers.

I am now, sir, a man advancing into the vale of years. Repeated calamities have in some degree, enervated my mind; and losses of the dearest connections I ever had on earth, have weaned my soul, in some measure, from this transitory scene. My mind, however, from an habitual sense of piety that I have cherished from my earliest youth, enjoys a state of tranquillity, that has afforded to me more real consolation than all the riches of this universe could have bestowed. I look back with delight on that early period of life, when the heart, yet ignorant of guile, and a stranger to the ways of the world, delighted to yield itself wholly up to the purest pleasures of a warm devotion. The recollection of that charming innocence of mind which then pervaded all my frame, makes me still look upon young people, whose minds are uncontaminated and pure, as the best images of the divinity on earth. My heart feels warm, when I contemplate the pure ideas that strongly mark their native integrity. It is impossible not to love them; and I never can sufficiently admire that pathetic expression of our Saviour, "Suffer little children to come unto me, for of such is the kingdom of heaven." While surrounded by these little innocents, I sometimes feel a satisfaction as if it were an anticipation of the joys of heaven. I study their thoughts. I seem to renew my age, by the recollection of what is past; and I forget my calamities by participating in their bliss.

Can you forgive the garrulity of an old man? It is not long that I shall intrude myself upon you or your readers; for soon shall the place that now knoweth me remember me no more. I feel, however, that I am interested in the success of your performance. I think I can perceive that you have a serious desire to do all the good you can. I hope your work will have an extensive

circulation among the less learned, and the most innocent part of the community; and for their sake I trust you will be attentive to admit nothing into it that can taint the morals, or corrupt the heart. In doing this, you will do well; but in trying to cherish a spirit of pure piety, you will still do better. It will add to the consolations of an old man, if before he drops into the grave, he can cherish this idea.

Though I am now like a solitary tree stripped of its branches standing in the midst of the desert, exposed to the buffeting of every blast, I once was protected by another, whose genial influence mitigated the fury of every storm; and was surrounded with rising plants that promised to do more than supply my place, when my own head should be laid low in the dust. They are now in heaven. Among these was a daughter who possessed every amiable quality that the fondest wishes of a parent could reach. She had a book, that her innocent mind, pure as the morning dew drop, used to dwell upon with the warmest rapture. It now lies before me. Whether it be that the connecting of this book with the idea of its owner, helps to make me think more of it than I otherwise should have done, I cannot say; but I think there is a pathos and a beauty in many of the passages that are very uncommon. It is one of those little books that some good soul has composed for the use of children. It consists of hymns in prose. Some of your readers may have seen it; but to the greater part of them it will be new. I think many of them will be pleased with the beauty of the composition. I here transcribe some passages from it as a specimen.

A HYMN.

"Come, let us go forth into the fields, let us see how the flowers spring, let us listen to the warbling of the birds, and sport ourselves upon the new grass.

March. 30,

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4791.

ON PIETY.

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" The winter is over and gone, the buds come out upon the trees, the crimson blossoms of the peach and the nectarine are seen, and the green leaves sprout.

" The hedges are bordered with tufts of primroses, and yellow cowslips that hang down their heads ; and the blue violet lies hid in the shade.

" The young gozlings are running upon the green, they are just hatched, their bodies are covered with yellow down ; the old ones hiss with anger, if any one comes near.

" The hen sits upon her nest of straw, she watches patiently the full time, then she carefully breaks the shell, and the young chickens come out.

" The lambs just dropt are in the field, they totter by the side of their dams, their young limbs can hardly support their weight.

" If you fall, little lambs, you will not be hurt ; there is spread under you a carpet of soft grass, it is spread on purpose to receive you.

" The butterflies flutter from bush to bush, and open their wings to the warm sun.

" The young animals of every kind are sporting about ; they feel themselves happy, they are glad to be alive ; they thank him that has made them alive.

" They may thank him in their hearts, but we can thank him with our tongues ; we are better than they, and can praise him better.

" The birds can warble, and the young lambs can bleat ; but we can open our lips in his praise, we can speak of all his goodness.

" Therefore we will thank him for ourselves, and we will thank him for those that cannot speak.

" Trees that blossom, and little lambs that skip about, if you could, you would say how good he is ; but you are dumb, and we will say it for you.

" We will not offer you in sacrifice, but we will offer sacrifice for you on every hill, and in every green

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field; we will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and the incense of praise."

If this extract be not already too long, I shall beg your indulgence for the following

HYMN. I.

"Behold the shepherd of the flock; he taketh care of his sheep, he leadeth them among clear brooks, he guideth them to fresh pasture; if the young lambs are weary, he carrieth them in his arms; if they wander, he bringeth them back.

"But who is the shepherd's shepherd? Who taketh care of him? Who guideth him in the path he should go? And if he wander, who shall bring him back?

"God is the shepherd's shepherd: He is the shepherd over all; he taketh care for all; the whole earth is his fold: We are all his flock, and every herb and every green field is the pasture which he hath prepared for us."

II.

"The mother loveth her little child; she bringeth it upon her knees; she nourisheth its body with food; she feedeth its mind with knowledge: If it is sick, she nourisheth it with tender love; she watcheth over it when asleep; she forgetteth it not for a moment; she teacheth it how to be good; she rejoiceth daily in its growth.

"But who is the parent of the mother? who nourisheth her with good things, and watcheth over her with tender love, and remembereth her every moment? whose arms are about her to guard her from harm? and if she is sick, who shall heal her?

"God is the parent of the mother; he is the parent of all; for he created all. All the men, and all the women who are alive in the wide world, are his children; he loveth all, he is good to all.

III.

"The king governeth his people; he hath a golden crown upon his head, and the royal sceptre is in

March 30.
Thanksgiving, and the
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ON FIFTY.

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his hands; he sitteth upon a throne, and sendeth forth
his commands; his subjects fear him; if they do well,
he protecteth them from danger; and if they do evil,
he punisheth them.

"But who is the sovereign of the king? who com-
mandeth him what he must do? whose hand is stretch-
ed out to protect him from danger? and if he doeth
evil, who shall punish him?"

"God is the sovereign of the king: His crown is
of rays of light, and his throne is amongst the stars.
He is king of kings, and Lord of lords: if he biddeth
us live, we live; if he biddeth us die, we die; his do-
minion is over all worlds, and the light of his counte-
nance is upon all his works."

"God is our shepherd, therefore we will follow
him: God is our father, therefore we will love him:
God is our king, therefore we will obey him."

If these pieces meet with your approbation, I shall
occasionally send you some others of a similar kind
from the same store.

SEWEL.

To the Editor of the Bee.

On Gypsum.

SIR,

A WORTHY gentleman, of an honourable family, in this
part of Scotland, who is settled in the state of New Jer-
sey in America, has, last year, fully experienced the great
benefit of the use of Gypsum or plaister stone, as an
improver of grass land, informing his correspondents in
Scotland, that upon one and three fourths of an acre of
a dry lawn, where he formerly scarce cut two loads of
half a ton, he cut, last year, six loads of the first crop;
and when his letter was dispatched, he had good reason
to expect four loads more for the second crop, making
in all five tons and one half; a wonderful melioration,
indeed, and well worth verifying in this country.

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The quantity sown on the acre, by this gentleman, was at the rate of six bushels of 32 quarts *per* acre of 160 perches.

We have good stucco in this part of Scotland, and particularly at a place called the Chalk-Heugh at Kelso, from whence, by the favour of his Grace the Duke of Roxburgh, I procured about a ton of it, which I caused to be reduced to powder in the bark-mill at Kelso, and am now about to sow it on some of my bare and dry up-land pasture, which is in a very poor state, and has not been limed. I shall sow six bushels on one acre, seven on another, and eight on the third, to put the effect of this manure fully to the test, and shall carefully and fully narrate every circumstance attending this experiment, and transmit the result to your useful paper.

Several of the farmers in this country are about, this year, to make the trial of stucco on their pastures; and, if the practice is attended with success equal to that in America, it cannot fail of proving a noble introduction into Britain, particularly in those pasture countries that are at a distance from lime and the manure of cities.

A ton of stucco brought to Leith, or other port in Scotland, after it is reduced to powder, may stand about two guineas: but we have abundance of stucco in several parts of Scotland; and it may be raised, I should suppose, for about seven shillings *per* ton at a medium. I shall rejoice, if my zeal to promote the determination of this experiment, shall terminate in increasing the fertility of our pastures, and consequently, of conferring a lasting benefit on posterity. I am, Sir, your constant reader and well-wisher,

ALBANICUS,

Banks of Tweed, }
Feb. 1st, 1791. }

March 30,

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ALBANICUS.

1791.

ON AGRICULTURE.

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To the Editor of the Bee.

SIR,

IN my last I endeavoured to turn the public attention towards Dr. Coventry's lectures upon agriculture, by pointing out the probable advantages which may be derived from that excellent institution, as also the most likely means of rendering its influence as extensive as beneficial. I am sorry to inform you, that it is not attended so well as it ought to be, or, as I had every reason to expect. I shall however proceed to point out, in as few words as I can, the many and great advantages that must arise, not only to the country at large, but to private families, and even to individuals, from agriculture well conducted, generally extended, and properly supported.

If health, vigour, activity of body, and strength of mind, are of any value, where are they to be found in such perfection as among men engaged in the various branches of agriculture? Where are we to look for simplicity of manners, decency of demeanour, sobriety, and I had almost said honesty, and all those qualities which are said to constitute the virtue of a state? In great towns, in large manufactories, in a corrupted and promiscuous society, or the solitudes of rural retirement? In the sequestered shades of the country, the farmer, from his situation, and the nature of his employment, is more disposed to turn his attention to the deity than any other member of the community: He seems more immediately to communicate with God, and to receive, as it were, all his blessings directly from the hand of his creator. This reflection must inspire him with reverence and gratitude; and as real goodness is ever more promoted in the heart than in

the head, many are the advantages of the husbandman over the manufacturer.

It is in the country only, where a race of healthful children are to be expected. It is there we must seek for the unimpaired strength of youth, and the vigour of manhood. These only can contend with the vigour of climate, and the hardships of war. These and these only will stand a wall of fire, as Burns says, around our well loved Isle. Much is said of the introduction of manufactures.

They may indeed produce a temporary good, by furnishing labour to the children and daughters of the poor, and raising a few insignificant individuals to wealth, and that attention consequent upon it; but they at the same time lay a certain foundation for future misery and wretchedness, by the introduction of vice under every form, profligacy, drunkenness, debility, and disease. To those who have been much in the habit of visiting cotton mills, where many hundreds of young women and children are employed, what I have said will be more than sufficient; and others may rest assured that nothing is advanced which is not true. Every employment that has from its very nature a direct tendency to meliorate the heart, secures health, and improves the moral character, is not only advantageous to the state, but will most effectually promote and secure the prosperity and peace of families, and thus contribute to the comfort of each individual. The government of a farm-house is patriarchal. But I shall not take up more of your paper than is usually allotted to each correspondent; and in my next endeavour to shew, how country gentlemen may, by a trifling sacrifice of their time, and at a very small expence, excite a spirit of emulation and improvement amongst their tenants and dependents. Yours, &c.

JACQUES.

March 30.
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JACQUES.

1791.

ON EXAMPLE.

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The Editor is much obliged to the unknown correspondent, who has taken the trouble to select this valuable extract. To communications that may occur, in the course of reading, to any gentleman of knowledge and taste, he will always bestow particular attention. Where it will be too much trouble to transcribe the extract, a simple reference to the book, when it can be easily procured, will be enough; but where the books are rare, so as not to come within his power, he will be glad to be permitted to pay for the transcribing. Extracts from rare books, where the matter is good, he will always esteem a very particular favour. Whatever tends to develop the human character, to trace the progress of society, to mark the state of mankind at any particular period, or to discriminate the spirit of the times, will be deemed particularly valuable.

To the Editor of the Bee.

On Example.

SIR,

THE most effectual method by which we can promote virtue and religion in others, is by being virtuous and religious ourselves. The degree in which the vicious man contributes to the general depravity, is not to be estimated merely by his actual vices; nor is he who is virtuous to be considered as adding his own virtue only to the public stock. In either case, it is scarce to be conceived previously, how far a little even will extend. The imitative nature of man, indeed, and the consequent influence of example, are so generally acknowledged, that they need not now be proved, but they do not seem enough considered, even by those whose conduct in most respects is truly virtuous. Virtue, to have its full effect, must not only *exist*, but be rendered *visible*. Yet many persons, anxious to avoid the imputation of hypocrisy, take pains to appear worse than they are. They treat some things, of which they have in their hearts a just esteem and reverence, with

studied contempt and levity, and lightly censure others of which they have in reality a great and deserved abhorrence. This conduct, though proceeding from a respectable motive, is blameable for its ill effects. An ostentatious display of good qualities is not, it must be owned, the mark of an amiable character, and is scarce perhaps consistent with a very considerable portion of them; but it is certainly less pernicious to society, than the opposite extreme. There are occasions on which it is our indispensable duty to make our light shine before men. It should be considered, that many who may be influenced by our sentiments, have no other way of discovering them than by our outward deportment. If they are misled by this, let us take care that it be more from their want of discernment, than from any just occasion which we may afford them, and let us ever beware of the guilt which he incurs who willfully or negligently causeth his brother to offend.

Pearson's Sermon on the King's Proclamation.

A genuine Anecdote of Sir Robert Walpole.

Is it that a consciousness of power begets magnanimity, or from what other cause does it proceed, that we meet with so many instances of that virtue among ministers who have been firmly seated in office, and so few instances of the same kind among those who oppose them? What follows is a striking confirmation of this fact.

It is well known that Sir Robert Walpole, like every other minister who enjoys for a long time the favour of his prince, had many enemies. In that number the celebrated William Shippen, well known in the annals of that period, was among the most conspicuous. Shippen, who secretly favoured the cause of the abdi-

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ated family, carried on a private treasonable corre-
fpondence with fome of the favourers of that caufe.
Walpole, who was not ignorant of this circumftance,
contrived matters fo as to get into his hand a whole
bundle of Shippen's treasonable letters. When he had
obtained them, he fent for Mr. Shippen one morning
to fpeak with him about fome particular bufinefs. The
patriot, fomewhat furprized, but not in the leaft fuf-
pecting the true caufe of the meffage, obeyed the fum-
mons. He was politely received by the minifter, who,
after the ufual compliments, put the letters in his
hands, asking at the fame time, if he knew that hand
writing? Poor Shippen, as foon as he caft his eyes up-
on them, was confounded and abafhed: He wifhed to
make fome kind of apology, but could only ftammer
out fome incoherent words. Sir Robert then fmiling,
took him by the hand: "Be not afraid, faid he, Mr.
Shippen; I fee well enough how matters ftand. I only
wanted to convince you that I am not the very wicked
creature you wifhed to perfuade the world I am. Set
your mind at eafe. Thefe papers I obtained merely
for my own private information. I am fatisfied; and
be affured that no one elfe fhall ever be the wifer for
them." So faying, he took them from the trembling
culprit, and threw them into the fire, where they were
quickly reduced to afhes. "It is my duty, faid he,
to ferve my mafter with fidelity, and to protect him
from all dangers that may chance to threaten him. But
it is neither my inclination nor my duty, to punifh with
undue feverity, thofe who, through miftaken principles,
may have been led into error. I fhould even doubt
how far I acted with ftrict impartiality, were I to de-
liver up to punifhment the man who perfonally oppofed
me as you have done; and the world would have ftill
more reafon to doubt of it than myfelf. Go home in
perfect fecurity, and be affured that on all proper oc-
cafions I will promote your intereft juft as much as if
no fuch thing had happened.

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The patriot returned with sentiments very different from those he entertained when he came. Some time afterwards, Shippen obtained a lucrative office, which he could not exercise without taking the oaths of allegiance. Sir Robert, who knew of this, took care to be present when the oath was administered; and placing himself just opposite, stared Shippen full in the face, and burst into a fit of laughter, when the patriot abjured the family of the pretender. No one present understood the full meaning of this but themselves. When all was over, Shippen came up to him, "By G—d, said he, Sir Robert, this is too much; you had almost made these cursed oaths sick in my throat, and choke me. This was indeed too much."

Unhappy is the state of a patriot when he becomes a pensioner. He is ever meeting such rubs as this.

[Faint, illegible text, possibly a continuation of the anecdote or a separate note.]

A provost of St. Andrews, who kept the public house where the presbytery dined, both before and after the Revolution, being asked what was the difference between the one and the other, answered, there was not much. In the time of episcopacy, the dean used to call boldly for a bottle of wine. Afterwards, the moderator whispered the maid to fetch a *magnū bonum*.

On Friendship.

To lose the friendship and the esteem we had for any one, is, to a feeling heart, the most unpleasant occurrence in life. The ideas that crowd into the mind on such an occasion are innumerable, and not one of them is of the agreeable sort.

The Lammy, a favourite new song just published.

WHAR hae ye been a' day my boy Tammy?
 Whar hae ye been a' day my boy Tammy?
 I've been by burn and flow'ry brae,
 Meadow green, and mountain grey,
 Courting o' this young thing, juik come frae her mammy.

And whar gat ye that young thing, my boy Tammy?
 I gat her down in yonder how,
 Smiling on a broomy know,
 Herding ae wee lamb and ewe,
 For her poor mammy.

What said ye to the bonny bairn, my boy Tammy?
 I prais'd her een, so lovely blue,
 Her dimpl'd cheek, and cherry mow,—
 I pree'd it oft as ye may true;
 "She said she'd tell her mammy."

The smile gade aff her bonny face,
 "I manna leave my mammy,
 "She's ge'en me meat, she's ge'en me claise;
 "She's been my comfort a' my days;
 "My father's death brought many wae;
 "I can na leave my mammy."

Weel tak her bame, and kink her hair,
 My ain kind hearted lammy;
 Weel gee her meat, weel gee her claise,
 Weel be her comfort a' her days.
 The wee thing ge'es her hand and says,
 There! gang and ask my mammy.

Has she been to the kirk wi' thee, my boy Tammy?
 She has been to the kirk wi' me,
 And the tear was in her ee,
 But O she's but a young thing, juik come frae her mammy.

Horace, lib. 1. Ode 5. imitated.

As ! tell me, dear Pyrrha, what beautiful boy,
This evening shall rife these charms;
Some jessamine arbour the scene of your joy,
And Paradice all in your arms!

For whom are you combing your long jetty hair,
So gracefully artless your dress;
So tender a look ! so bewitching an air !
Admiration swells into distress.

Your simple young fav'rite will fondly suppose,
That he is the Lord of your heart;
But, when the seas frown, and the hurricane blows,
With how much amaze shall he start.

How happy the lovers who calmly defy
The fair one they cannot esteem;
But yet in the midst of your scorn let me die,
E'er I live to be frigid like them.

Nothing new.

UNHAPPY is the bard who sighs
For solid friendship with the great,
Since every effort which he tries
Will prove his plan a bitter cheat.

By a long surfeit of success,
The heart grows hard, the head grows light,
And all approaches of distress,
Derange the vision of delight.

In vain your eloquence would plead,
No words the fordid soul can alter;
'Tis better far to beg your bread,
Or make your exit in a halter.

These two poems are taken from *Miscellanies in prose and verse*, a small but elegant collection just printed, (not for sale), by J. Robertson, South Bridge, Edinburgh; with a copy of which the Editor has been favoured by a friend.

REVIEW.

Sacotala, or the Fatal Ring; an Indian Drama, by Callidas. Continued from page 120.

The distress of Dushmanta on recollecting the cruelty of his conduct to the queen, is painted with great truth and beauty; but our scanty limits forbid us from inserting it entire. For the following passages, we hope, no apology will be necessary.

"*Dust.* When I reflect on your friend Sacotala, who must now be greatly affected by my desertion of her, I am without comfort. She made an attempt to follow the Brachmens and the matron: Stay, said the sage's pupil, who was revered as the sage himself. Stay, said he, with a loud voice. Then once more, she fixed on me who had betrayed her, that celestial face, then bedewed with gushing tears; the bare idea of her pain, burns me like an envenomed javelin.

Again.

"Was it sleep that impaired my memory? Was it delusion? Was it an error of judgment? Or was it the destined reward of my bad actions? Whatever it was, I am sensible, that until Sacotala return to these arms, I shall be plunged in the abyss of affliction.

Again.

"(*Looking at the ring.*) How, O ring, couldst thou leave that hand, adorned with soft long fingers, and fall into a pool, decked only with water lilies?—The answer is obvious: Thou art irrational.—But how could I, who was born with a reasonable soul, desert my beloved.

Again.

"O my darling, whom I treated with disrespect, and forsook without reason, when will this traitor, whose heart is deeply stung with repentant sorrow, be once more blessed with a sight of the "

Dost thou, O reader, recognize the savage in these features? Is he not a man? Is he not thy brother?

The art of painting, is supposed, not to have never been carried to any degree of perfection in India. I think this must be a mistake, or how could the poet have imagined the following circumstances,

The Emperor, delighted with every thing that recalls the idea of his beloved, orders a picture of her, that had been painted by one of her damsels, to be brought to him: and presenting it to his prime minister, he says,

"*Madh.* There are so many female figures on this canvas, that I cannot well distinguish the lady Sacontala."

"*Dushm.* Which of the figures do you conceive to be intended for the queen?"

"*Madh.* (Examining the picture.) It is she, I imagine, who looks a little fatigued; and the string of her vest rather loose; the slender stalks of her arms falling languidly, a few bright drops on her face, and some flowers dropping from her untied locks. That must be the queen; and the rest, I suppose, are her damsels."

"*Dushm.* You judge well; but my affection requires something more in the piece. Besides, through some defect in the colouring, a tear seems trickling down her cheek, which ill suits the state in which I desired to see her painted. (To the damsel.) The picture, O Chaturica, is unfinished. Go back to the painting room, and bring the implements of thy art."

"*Madh.* What else is to be painted?"

"*Dushm.* In this landscape, my friend, I wish to see represented, the river Malini, with some amorous flamingos on its green margin; farther back must appear some hills near the mountain Himalya surrounded with herds of Chamaras; and in the fore ground, a dark spreading tree, with some mantles of woven bark suspended on its branches, to be dried by the sun beams; while a pair of black antelopes couch in its shade, and the female gently rubs her beautiful forehead on the horn of the male."

Other particulars are added, which we must omit, that clearly prove the poet was well acquainted with the enchanting powers of the pencil. This scene is concluded, with the following beautiful apostrophe of the king, suggested by his present situation.

"Why do I thus indulge unremitted grief? That intercourse with my darling which dreams would give, is prevented by my continual inability to repose; and my tears will not suffer me to view her distinctly even in this picture."

These extracts are already too long; but long as they are, I cannot close the book without transcribing what follows.

"A Warder enters with a leaf."

"*Ward.* May the king prosper!—The chief minister sends this message: "I have carefully stated a case which has arisen in the ci-

ty, and accurately committed it to writing: let the king dign to consider it."

"*Dushm.* Give me the leaf.—(*Receiving it, and reading.*)—"Be it presented at the foot of the king, that a merchant named Dhanavriehi, who had extensive commerce at sea, was lost in a late shipwreck: he had no child born; and has left a fortune of many millions, which belong, if the king commands, to the royal treasury."—(*With sorrow.*) Oh! how great a misfortune it is to die childless! Yet with his affluence he must have had many wives:—let an enquiry be made whether any one of them is pregnant.

"*Ward.* I have heard that his wife, the daughter of an excellent man, named Saccata, has already performed the ceremonies usual on pregnancy.

"*Dushm.* The child, though unborn, has a title to his father's property—Go: bid the minister make my judgments public.

"*Ward.* I obey. (*Going.*)

"*Dushm.* Stay awhile.—(*Music.*)

"*Ward.* (*Returning*) I am here.

"*Dushm.* Whether he had, or had not left offspring, the estate should not have been forfeited.—Let it be proclaimed, that *whosoever* *shall* *lose* *any* *one* *of* *my* *subjects* *may* *lose* *his* *estate* *excepting* *always* *the* *case* *of* *forfeiture* *for* *crimes* *will* *supply* *in* *tender* *affection* *the* *place* *of* *that* *husband*."

What a noble idea, and how properly introduced! The king, feeling what it is to be deprived of the tenderest connections he had, learns to be interested for those, who are in similar circumstances of distress.—Does not the man, who can cherish such ideas, deserve to be embraced as a brother, by all the virtuous part of the human race!

Remarks on some English Plays.

THE following remarks were written on a collection of plays, that were deposited by the learned Lord of the manor at an Inn in a rising village in the North of Scotland, for the entertainment of travellers. The collection at first included the greatest part of the acting plays in Britain; and, as the owner of the village delighted "to dwell among his own people," when a cessation from business permitted, he used to amuse himself at times, during these intervals of leisure, in glancing over such of the plays as attracted his notice. On finishing the perusal, he wrote on a blank leaf such observations as occurred

to him on the occasion. It was found, however, that in consequence of these annotations, many of the plays were carried off by travellers; so that before the keeper of the library was aware of it, the collection was greatly diminished. This was no sooner perceived, than it occurred to him that the larceny had been occasioned by the annotations. He regretted that so many of them had been lost; and to preserve what remained from undergoing the same fate, he set himself to transcribe the whole of the annotations. These afterwards fell into the hands of a gentleman, who caused them to be printed for preservation, along with a small collection intitled *Miscellanies in prose and verse*. The remarks extend to above an hundred of the most popular plays, farces, and operas in the English language. Several other modern publications are also reviewed in a separate article. From this collection, they are transcribed into this miscellany. The numerous acquaintance of the learned author will be at no loss to recognize his Lordship's elegant pen in these short notices. As the work was not printed for sale, the Editor thinks he will perform an acceptable service, by rendering them more accessible to the public.

The Hypocrite, a Comedy.

THIS plagiarious mode of forming plays, has, in our servile age, become necessary from the want of original genius. The scenes borrowed from Cibber, are generally good. The translations from Moliere, fall materially short of the sense, humour and propriety of the original. The compiler's additions are very distinguishable from the rest. There is certainly an impropriety and ill judgment, in transferring the characters of Tartuffe and Wolf, the opulent priests of established superstition, to the person of a poor enthusiastic fanatic preacher. The same author has exhausted the original spirit of the Plain Dealer, and metamorphosed it into a very insipid comedy, in the true taste of modern alteration.

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A true Widow, a Comedy.

THE scenes in this play are loose and unconnected. Some of the characters are outré, and there is hardly any plot, yet the language is easy and natural. We find in it true unaffected wit, and materials which would make a great figure in modern comedy.

The Squire of Alsatia, a Comedy.

THERE is a great variety of amusing adventure in this play, with some good scenes and natural characters; yet it falls off remarkably after the first act, which is a piece of true comedy. Sir Edward is as pleasant and just a character of a sensible worthy gentleman, as can be found in the drama, or in real life; and the moral of this play is liberal and good, in various views. I value this play the more, as I was much prepossessed against the author, by Dryden's admirable satire in the *Mackfleenoe*; but great wits have great pride and malice. Pope, with genius much inferior to Dryden, discovers a similar pride and malevolence, by his illiberal abuse of Colly Cibber, in his *Dunciad*; in which the malice is very natural, and the wit is very artificial. On the whole, the play, though not altogether of a piece with the first act, merits the character as expressed in the dedication by its patron, "of a true and diverting comedy."

The Beaux Stratagem, a Comedy.

THIS is a pleasant comedy, has great variety of character and humour, and is very entertaining, when well performed on the stage. There is less of the affected studied wit, and more of natural conversation and humour, than is to be found in most of our later comedies. In this age, dramatic genius exists not; and,

"Nature flies us like enchanted ground."

Farquhar, however, neither in this, nor any of his plays, is able altogether to avoid some touches of low and indelicate humour.

Polly, an Opera, by Gay.

THE introduction, by way of prologue, is perfectly in the happy stile and taste of the prologue to the *Beggar's Opera*. Every sentence conveys, in easy, proper, and significant language, strokes of satire on the vices of the times, with peculiar force and pleasantry. There is here

no studied affectation, and quaintness, which generally infect our modern wit, and gratify a prevailing ill taste. A laboured singularity of expression, and pompous language, disguise the defects of sense and true genius, from the days of ancient Seneca, down to a very modern and popular historian of the Roman empire*. Clay and Swift are, I think, the only unaffected English wits. I except the old poets, Shakespear, Johnson, and Fletcher, and the singular wit and satire of the Rehearsal.

Rule a Wife, and have a Wife, a Comedy.

THIS is an admirable comedy. The characters are natural, and the conversation easy. The adventures are wrought up in an agreeable entertaining manner. The humour is unaffected, highly entertaining, and perfectly in character. All is in the old, plain, and happy style of poetry, which enlivens without constraining the author's composition. The baneful restoration introduced many and lasting evils to Britain; and, among the rest, a false corrupted taste in dramatic entertainments. From that period, our comedy has been infected with plots, immoral and improbable, with affected similes and studied wit, which, like the prologue of Bayes, may serve equally for any character or any play. Garrick has altered this comedy, and, as usual, for the worse.

Epicæne, or the Silent Woman, a Comedy.

ALL the characters of excellent comedy are to be found in this play. It is equally admirable in language, composition, wit, and judgment. Dryden bestows high encomiums upon it, and prefers it to all the English comedies in his time; and I believe it is still entitled to the same pre-eminence.

The Mock Doctor, or the Dumb Lady cured, a Comedy.

THIS is a tolerable translation from Moliere. The pleasant naiveté of the original is not fully preserved, and in some passages a low indecent humour is introduced, to suit the taste of a London audience. The songs are not a translation; but they are wretchedly in the modern London taste.

The Miser, a Comedy.

THIS is also a translation from Moliere, and executed in a better taste, and in more conformity to the original than the former. But the affected Coquette, the pert Chambermaid, and the Footman, are partly

* Lord Mansfield being asked his opinion of the style of this celebrated writer, replied "It is voluminous."

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moulded into characters of modern English comedy, and suit ill with the masterly simplicity of the rest, though they serve to make the play more current and entertaining on a London Theatre.

The Twin Rivals, a Comedy.

Pope says justly,

"What pert low dialogue has Farquhar writ."

Though his humour is often low, and what is much worse, often indecent, yet he had talents for writing comedy. He copies well from low life. His characters are natural, and maintained with uniformity, and well distinguished. But his higher characters are affected. His plots are amusing, but commonly deficient in judgment and regularity; and upon the whole, his plays will always be entertaining on the stage, though they will not stand without censure, a trial of taste and just criticism in the closet.

The Provoked Husband, a Comedy.

THINK this is the very best of our modern comedies*. The characters, both high and low, are formed from real life, finely distinguished, and exactly maintained. The serious conversations are elegant, yet natural. The comical part is in a high degree entertaining, without indecency. The plot is interesting, and the catastrophe is just; for merit and virtue are encouraged and rewarded; vice and folly are chastised, and exposed to contempt.

The Recruiting Officer, a Comedy.

[Vide Remark on the Twin Rival.]

The Way of the World, a Comedy.

CONGREVE writes with the greatest purity of language, and all the charms of wit. But we must be told in the course of the dialogue, who are intended for wits, and who for fools, otherwise we could hardly distinguish them, they all speak so wittily. Indeed, the author utters his own wit and language in every character, with little distinction. His plots and catastrophes are generally perplexed and improbable. Though the language is pure and proper, yet I cannot help thinking,

* The word Modern is equivalent, and seems here to be applied to comedies written since the Restoration. This explanation appears necessary to make the present article consistent with the enunciation followed in "The Silent Woman."

that it is often too studied, and even affected, either for natural conversation, "such as men do use," or for the true dramatic dialogue. The characters are however well distinguished, for the most part properly maintained, and the true spirit of comedy prevails in many of his scenes.

The Gentle Shepherd, a Scots Pastoral Comedy.

THIS excellent piece does honour to North Britain. There is no pastoral in the English language comparable to it; and I believe there is none in any language superior to it.

The Fair Penitent, a Tragedy, by Rowe.

THIS author has the merit of sentiment, delicacy and powers, to touch the unthinking tender passions; but Shakspear is my model of dramatic excellence, and the comparison diminishes Rowe. He is too romantic in his plots. There is a flowing sameness of language in all his characters; and he pours out a profusion of poetical words, without any measure of Shakspear's nervous strength, and sententious meaning. I do not think this play either bad or good enough for particular criticism.

The plain Dealer, a Comedy.

THIS play has a good deal of pleasant wit, and severe satire. The characters are well distinguished and preserved, and the plot is less perplexed than in the bulk of modern comedies. A wretched attempt was lately made to alter this play, (i. e. to mar it in the fashionable way,) to adapt it to the present taste. Perhaps it succeeded, and had a run at London: I am not informed, but I think it probable, as it vulgarized a play of uncommon spirit so very remarkably.

Romeo and Juliet, a Tragedy.

THE fancy, delicacy, and love in this play, the inimitable production of Shakspear's genius, are, in my opinion, blotted by the alterations and additions; I can allow the propriety of retrenching some of Shakspear's scenes; but I do not think it possible to add, or alter in the productions of so singular and superior a genius, without apparent incongruity and absurdity, though a London audience cannot perceive it. The very attitude of the prints shews a prevailing ill-taste; they are theatrical and affected, unlike Shakspear and Nature. Shakspear's conclusion of this play might be retrenched; but as it stands, will be

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esteemed by true judges, as infinitely superior in poetry, judgment, and force, to the modern alteration. It ends with a melancholy, yet pleasing reconciliation of the two families; and with these two simple, natural, and tender lines,

"For never was a story of more woe,
"Than this of Juliet and her Romeo;"

which the reader of taste may compare to the stiff unmeaning modern ones.

Coriolanus, a Tragedy, by Shakspear.

Judicious readers will find much more of Shakspear's merit, and peculiar genius in this piece, than our critics allow. On the whole, I think the managers and critics discover a remarkable defect of true taste and judgment in the modelling of this play; which, from Shakspear's precious materials, might easily be formed into one of the most pleasing and perfect entertainments on the British stage. I must often repeat, that in modelling Shakspear's plays for the stage, judicious retrenchment, and sometimes an alteration in the arrangement of scenes, may be allowed, but not a word to be altered or added. I have an opinion, almost to devotion, of Shakspear's peculiar and extraordinary genius, and can hardly forbear application of a scriptural anathema to such innovators. The conduct of Coriolanus, rightly judged, was neither base nor treacherous. It was noble. Though induced by the intrigues, and indeed by the irresistible persuasions of his excellent mother, he saved the ungrateful Romans, yet he made a prudent and advantageous peace for the Volscians. Conscious of innocence, he deserted not their service, but returned with their army, and in open senate, with his usual magnanimity, maintained his defence, and was sacrificed, not to the justice of the state, but to the jealousy of his ambitious rival. Shakspear has most forcibly and judiciously introduced his justification, in his mother's admirable speech, which apparently convinced Aufidius himself. She says,

"Thou knowest, great son, the end of war's uncertain.
"If it were so, that our request did tend
"To save the Romans, thereby to destroy
"The Volscians, whom you serve, you might condemn us
"As poisoners of your honour: no, our suit
"Is, that you reconcile them; that each, on either side,
"Give all hail unto thee, and cry, be blest
"For making up the Peace."

In this fair view, the Coriolanus of history, and of Shakspear, is a great ancient character, misunderstood by our modern critics.

* For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, if any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book. And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. Rev. xxi. 10, 19.

Reflections on the Bastille, continued from page 80.

"WHAT then is the end and result of these observations? It is this—At the moment in which I write, the cause of liberty and that of despotism are pleaded on opposite sides, from one end of Europe to the other, and every friend of humanity has a right to interfere in the process. I will not indeed carry my plea to the Divan at Constantinople; they would not understand me: but other powers are more or less enlightened; princes read; their children read. Often have they read, it is true, that absolute power tended to the oppression of the people; of that they are pretty well convinced: but that it was neither advantageous nor desirable for monarchs themselves, is a circumstance far from being so generally acknowledged, though no less incontestible. People are careful not to acquaint them with this; on the contrary, they repeat, they incessantly inculcate, that their greatest interest, that to which every thing ought to give way, is their being *absolute masters*. Well, the memoirs of the Bastille are proofs in point. We know that the sole answer to all complaints, to every remonstrance, was *reasons of state*. I address myself to all who favour despotism, thus: I summon, I adjure you, among all that innumerable crowd of prisoners shut up in the Bastille, from Richelieu, down to the present time, to point out a single one whom the *interest of the state* required to be deprived of that legitimate right, common to all men, of being judged publicly and according to law.

"I defy you to prove to me, that the *interest of the King*, the *authority of the King*, were ever the motive of these tyrannic imprisonings. On the contrary, all the facts without exception evidently prove, that the principles of these odious detentions was always private interest, especially that kind of interest common to all the agents of power, to be all *powerful in their respective places*.

"I conclude, and you cannot deny my conclusion, that despotism is an excellent system for all its ministers; excellent for their passions, their fortune, their pride, their revenge, their pleasures; but detestable for the people whom it crushes; detestable also for Kings, whom it renders odious and contemptible, all whose faults it occasions, all whose misfortunes, and sometimes their ruin.

"There is a principle of just reason in all men; and so well do the people feel that it is not Kings who are interested in reigning despotically, that it is to them they always raise their voice and their complaints against the acts of despotism; and, on the other hand, ministers have always been so sensible of the same truth, that they have held it

* I except only, "the man with the iron mask," a fact, singular in all its circumstances, and which can be compared to nothing else; which besides would not prove notorious, since the treatment of this prisoner must have proceeded from a fundamental error, an original wrong that ought to have been corrected.

March 30,

From page 80.

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ON THE BASTILLE.

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an invariable maxim to prevent by all means the complaint from ever reaching the ear of the monarch.

"Let me suppose for a moment, that as we see in some Fairy Tales, there was a supernatural power to oblige men to bring out, in spite of themselves, all that lay in the bottom of their heart, so that their most secret thoughts should appear on their lips. This then would be the exact every day's language of Courtiers to their King: "When we tell you, Sire, that your power is absolute, unlimited, above all laws, and derived to you from God, it is not because we believe a word of it: we know well that God has given no person such a power; nor is it because you have need of a power of that kind: were yours only what it should be, the power of executing the law, your exalted rank raise you so far above other men, so readily bring all possible enjoyments within your reach, without encroaching upon those of others, that unless you are totally insensible, you can have no desire to be unjust to any one. But, Sire, it is not so with us; if your fortune be made, ours is not: You are too great to have any thing to contend for, to envy any person; but we must have riches, honours, power; we have enemies, rivals, men jealous of us, distractors; and we want, not without reason, to invade, usurp, pillage, insult, oppress, and take our revenge with impunity; and, therefore, Sire, if it be not necessary that you should be absolute on your own account, at least you should be so on ours; it is in your name that we must be enabled to accomplish and to attempt every thing; you must never speak to any person but ourselves, because they may be able to tell you the truth, and that you should never know; there must be Bastilles to overawe the presumptuous, who should dare to find fault that we governed in your name. In a word, Sire, the whole secret of the art of reigning, consists in this principle, that in order to render a King truly a King, it is necessary that the delegates of his authority should be able to abuse it in every way, and to do all the evil they wish, without the Sovereign ever knowing a particle of the matter, without any person having the right to complain of it, and without their being responsible for such conduct."

"Such is the confession of the faith of despotism: ye princes and monarchs, desire now to be absolute, that your ministers, your commanders, your intendants, and their clerks, may be tyrants under your name, and that for their pleasure you may be deceived, degraded, plundered, and detested."

A Catalogue of New Publications.

An Apology for Esau, a Sermon, at Plymouth, by T. Alcock, A. M.
1 s. 6 d. Law.

An Answer to a Letter from a Welsh freeholder to the Bishop of St. David's, on his charge, 6 d. Williams.

Trial of E. Lowe and W. Jobbins, for setting on fire the house of T. Gilding, in Aldergate-street, 1 s. Butters.

Sermons, by W. Adams, D. D. late master of Pembroke College, Oxford. Longman.

The History of Herodotus, from the Greek, with notes, by the Rev. W. Belsce, 4 vols. 8vo, 1 l. 1 s. boards. Leigh.

Alciphron's Letters from the Greek, 8vo, 5 s. boards. Robinsons.

Comparison of the opinions of Mr. Burke and M. Rousseau on government reform, 2 s. Lowndes.

Reflections on Faith, second edition, with an appendix on Mr. Burke's pamphlet, and on providing for the poor, 2 s. Dilly.

The Oracle of Delphos, of the future lives and deaths of distinguished personages, 3 s. 6 d. Symonds.

The History of Little Dick. 1 s. Harrison.

Eugene and Adelaide, 2 vols. 5 s. sewed. Dilly.

Woodley Park, 2 vols. 5 s. sewed. Wilkins.

Secret Memoirs of Robert Count de Parades, a French spy in England, 3 s. 6 d. Baldwin.

Brief Reflections on English liberty, addressed to Mr. Burke, by J. Butler, 2 s. Stalker.

Letter from Sir Brooke Boothby to Mr. Burke. Dehrett.

Letters to Mr. Burke, by J. Priestly, L. L. D. F. R. S. 2 s. 6 d. Johnson.

The Indians, a tragedy, 1 s. 6 d. Dilly.

Stanzas of woe, by Ann Yearlley, 4to, 2 s. Robinsons.

Oedipus, king of Thebes, a tragedy, from the Greek of Sophocles, into English prose, by G. S. Clarke, B. D. 2 s. Rivingtons.

Oenone to Paris, an epistle of Ovid, Lat. and Eng. 1 s. Lewis.

Impeachment, by E. Christian, second edition, much enlarged, 2 s. 6 d. Stockdale.

Some account of the Shrewsbury house of industry, with hints for similar institutions, by J. Wood, 1 s. 6 d. Longman.

An Examination of the expediency of continuing the present impeachment, by R. Broome, Esq. 2 s. 6 d. Stockdale.

Second Letter to Dr. Priestley, occasioned by Mr. Courtney's reflections, by Solomon de A. R. 1 s. Rivingtons.

The Contrast, an antidote against the pernicious principles of Le Chesterfield, 2 vols. 6 s. boards. Stockdale.

March 30

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LITERARY WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER,

FOR

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 1791.

*Remarks on that Style in Architecture, which is com-
monly called Gothic.*

TASTE is a term of such indefinite import, that there seems to be no possibility of arguing upon it with precision. In regard to artificial productions, it seems to be nearly of the same import with *fashion*. A thing, for example, is said to be beautiful, or executed in fine taste, if it be done in that style which is most in vogue at the time. Of course, the thing which was admired in one age, as elegant in the highest degree, may be, at a future period, deemed rude and barbarous in extreme. This being the case, it were idle to dispute which of the modes of architecture that have prevailed in different ages, are the most intrinsically beautiful; I shall not, therefore, in this essay, enter upon that discussion, on which much might be said, and little be determined. I shall merely attempt to point out some particulars that serve to characterise the Grecian and

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the Gothic architecture, and to mark the origin of these differential characteristics, and the uses they are best adapted to answer. But, first, it will not be improper to enquire into the cause of the decided preference that has been given, in modern times, to the Grecian stile of architecture, when compared with that which, in a more particular manner, forms the subject of the present disquisition.

In those unlettered times, which constitute what has been called the dark ages in Europe, the methods that were adopted for communicating knowledge from man to man must have been extremely imperfect; and the memory of them, from the want of records, is now entirely lost. On the revival of letters, when the Greek and Latin languages began to be studied, the knowledge which the civilized nations, who employed these languages, had acquired, and accumulated in their writings, seemed to be so much greater than that of the people then alive on the globe, as to induce those who became acquainted with the writings in these languages, to look upon the inhabitants of Greece and Rome as a people possessed of endowments so superior to all other men, as to entitle every thing that belonged to them to a degree of respect and veneration, that none other could deserve. Among the various arts that the Greeks had cultivated with care, that of architecture was one of the most conspicuous; it could not, therefore, fail of attracting the attention, in a particular manner; and of course, it obtained the unserved applause of the literati of those times: And as these *learned* men were deemed then superior to all others in mental endowments, *their* opinions acquired a degree of celebrity that was sufficient to influence the taste of the times. Thus, the stile of Grecian architecture came into vogue; and whatever differed from it, was stigmatized with the opprobrious name of Gothic, which was then deemed nearly synonymous with *barbarous*; that is to say, monstrous, incongruous and

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1791. ORIGIN OF GRECIAN ARCHITECTURE. 163

absurd. It is well known, that a popular opinion once firmly adopted, is difficult to be removed; especially when supported by an opprobrious name, and abetted by all men of eminence in the literary world: For who is it that is willing to incur the risk of being deemed ignorant and barbarous, by seeming to doubt the superior excellence of that which the ancients have admired, and those who have studied the ancients, have adored! It would be a degree of presumption in me to think of such a hardy enterprise; I, therefore, for the present, decline it, and shall content myself with having barely pointed at a phenomenon, which by some persons more daring than myself, might be deemed wonderful.

The temples of ancient Greece are allowed to exhibit the most elegant remains of the architecture of these people, that have been preserved for our inspection; and many of them are still so entire, as to enable us to judge not only of their most perfect forms, but also to trace the steps by which those people had been gradually led to adopt that stile of architecture, which has obtained the name of Grecian.

An ancient temple was always an oblong building, inclosed within walls, in height proportioned to the size, &c. of the structure. These walls, for the most part, supported a roof, under which was placed a statue of the deity to whom the temple was dedicated; before which, in an open space, appropriated for that purpose, the sacrifices were performed. This, it is probable, was, at first, the whole of the structure: But as great numbers of persons must frequently have assembled at the temple on particular solemn occasions, —and as the structure itself was generally of small dimensions, it must have been soon observed, that it would be a great convenience to have some covered shade near it, where the chiefs of the people could, on these occasions, be protected from the inclemencies of

the weather. The readiest means of supplying this defect, was obviously, to cut down some trees from the nearest forest;—to place them upright in rows around the temple, at a moderate distance from it, and from each other;—to have these joined together, and secured at top by means of a strong beam running along the whole length, from which scantlings might be raised, as from the top of a wall, to support the roof; which, by this means, came to be only a prolongation of the roof of the temple itself. Thus was formed a covered walk on the outside of the temple, under which the visitors could recreate themselves commodiously;—and in such a climate as Italy, where the heat of the sun is usually overpowering, and the freshness of the breeze highly exhilarating, the addition must have proved extremely grateful to the people. Further, to add to the convenience of such a screen, a double row of supports around the sides of the temple was sometimes made; and in the front, not two rows only, but more, sometimes, to the number of eight or ten, were formed, which must have afforded a very luxurious lounge to the idlers of those times.

In arranging these columns, and adorning them, much room was given for the fancy to be exercised; and as elegance was aimed at in these public structures, different artists were induced to exert their ingenuity in perfecting them. This produced, in time, the five orders of columns, with their ornaments, to which the writers of antiquity have appropriated distinct names; with the particulars concerning which it is not my intention to load this essay.

All the stoops or posts that supported the roof, which have since been denominated *columns*, there can be no doubt, were made originally of wood: But as these wooden posts were subject to decay, and the buildings of course, were liable to fall into a ruinous condition, it was at length imagined, that stone or marble might

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1791. INTRODUCTION OF GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE. 165

become a desirable substitute for the timber, as it would not be so subject to decay. But as man, in striking out improvements, usually advances only by steps, and not by gigantic leaps, they have adhered to the same general form they had seen practised before, with such alterations only, as the nature of the materials, now adopted in the place of wood, rendered necessary. Before this time, it is not to be supposed, that the pillars, in general, would be so thick as would now be found necessary; and far less could they be placed so close to each other, as afterwards became the universal fashion. Convenience, no doubt, suggested both these changes; for stone columns, of the size that wooden posts might have been made of with propriety, would not have had the necessary strength; and had the distance between the columns of stone been great, it would have been difficult to find stones long enough to reach between them, and form the entablature; which, in imitation of that of wood, was always carried forward in a straight line on the top of the columns. In consequence of these changes, however, certain inconveniences were produced; which, though not greatly felt in Italy, to which climate this mode of architecture was peculiarly calculated, rendered it unfit for certain purposes in northern regions.

When our forefathers in Britain and other northern regions embraced the Christian Religion, temples, or places of worship, now called churches, were as much wanted as in ancient Greece or Rome; but a change in the form of worship, and a difference of climate, made the form of ancient temples altogether unsuitable to the purposes of this society. In ancient times, as the priests only, and the chiefs of the people, were admitted into the temple, while the sacrifice was offered up, a small space within the walls sufficed for that purpose, the remainder of the people being agreeably accommodated under the porticoes without. But according to the Christian ritual, where the whole body of the

people were to be admitted within the church, —and where long solemn processions of many priests formed an essential part of the devotion of the times, a larger space within the church was wanted; and as all these exercises could only be properly performed in an open space, which was not only screened from the rain, but also from those piercing winds and severe blasts, which at certain seasons, infest these countries, it must be very obvious, that the stile of Grecian architecture was by no means, suited to the occasion. Instead of placing columns on the *outside* of the walls, to support an open shed roof, it was found necessary to make the walls include the whole of the roofed area; and if pillars were necessary within, it must have been found, that unless they were made more slender in their dimensions, and placed at a much greater distance from each other, than in the porticoes of the ancients, there would not have been room for the priests to perform, with decorum, the various functions of their office; with regard to which, not only was space necessary for allowing the various exercises to be performed without confusion, but light also was required, that they might be displayed to advantage.

We are indeed assured, from undoubted records, that at the first, our churches, as well as the original temples of the ancients, were made entirely of wood.; in which case, the internal conveniences so much wanted, could easily be obtained. In what manner these ancient wooden churches were constructed, we can now only form imperfect conjectures, as I do not know that a drawing, or even an accurate description of one of them, is preserved. But it is probable, that the light having been freely admitted into these buildings *on all sides*, the airy spaciousness of them within, gave the ecclesiastics and the people, such a taste for these conveniences, as to set the ingenuity of artists at work, to discover a mode of constructing buildings entirely of stone, that should possess both these requisite advantages. For it

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1791. ORIGIN OF GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE. 167

was soon found, that wooden edifices were so liable to be consumed by fire, and otherwise subject to decay, as to render a more durable kind of structure highly desirable.

To construct a building entirely of stone, that should possess the light spaciousness of these wooden structures, would have been a problem, that would perhaps have puzzled the greatest architects of Greece and Rome to have solved; as it doubtless could not have been done upon those principles by which they have always conducted themselves. Yet, to the abasement of the pride of literature, it cannot be denied, that in the midst of the darkest barbarism and ignorance, as we are pleased to speak, a set of self-taught artists arose, who, upon the strictest principles of mathematical precision, erected many structures of immense size, and stupendous magnificence, and possessing that spaciousness of lightness within, so desirable for the purposes to which they were appropriated, which still remain, proud monuments of the talents of those who first devised that stile of architecture. Of these we shall treat more fully in some future number of this work.

An Essay on the Genius and Character of Horace, as exhibited in his Odes. Continued from page 94.

Of that sublime spirit, which Horace, when he choosed, seemed capable of exerting, I might multiply examples. Of such a character are partly the 2d, 6th, and 11th odes of the first book; in the 6th is a very animated passage.

Quis martem tunica tectum adamantina
Digne scripserit? aut pulvere Troico
Nigrum Merionem? aut ope Palladis
Tydidem superis parem?

Who can describe the God of fight
In adamantine armour bright,

Or Merion on the Trojan shore
 With dust, how glorious, cover'd o'er,
 Or Diomed by Pallas' aid,
 To warring Gods an equal made.

We may also refer, among several others, to the 10th of the 2d book, the 4th, 5th, and 25th of the 3d book, the *Carmen Seculare*, and that noted ode of the 4th book, *Qualem ministrum fulminis alitem*. In which the poet, like the subject he describes, attempts a bold flight, but does not support himself equally.

I ought not to forget the two celebrated odes which have Bacchus for their subject, the one in the 2d, and the other in the 3d book: they are two of the most illustrious instances of the *Mens Divinior*, or rather, *Furor Divinus* of the poets. There is a rapture of enthusiasm in them, which seem almost to overwhelm their author. One cannot read them without terror.

I have been somewhat particular in pointing out the higher beauties of Horace, as they are not so obvious, nor does he, upon the whole, appear to so much advantage in these, as in topics of a more humble and amiable kind. Rural elegance, the delicacies of love, the sweets of friendship, and convivial festivity, when conducted with good humour. These he was well fitted to enjoy, and of these he loved to sing. To illustrate this by particular examples is almost unnecessary. Many enchanting descriptions of rural happiness are to be found scattered through all his writings, in his odes, epistles, and even satyrs. There is a beautiful ode expressly on this subject, the 2d in the books called epodes.

Beatus ille qui procul negotiis.

In the 18th ode of the 2d book, we have a pleasing instance of the happy satisfaction, which virtuous sensibility feels in the enjoyment of itself, especially in the retirement of the country. Horace, after informing us

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ON HORACE.

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that though no costly furniture shines in his house, nor is it elegantly adorned with ivory, and gold, and African columns;

At (says he), fides, et ingeni
Benigna vena est; pauperemque dives
Me petit. Nihil supra
Deos laceſſo, nec potentem amicum
Largiora flagito
Satis beatus unicus Sabinis.

Yet with a firm, and honest heart,
Unknowing or of fraud or art,
A liberal vein of genius blest,
I'm by the rich and great caress'd,
My patron's gift, my Sabine field,
Shall all its rural plenty yield,
And happy in that rural store
Of heaven and him I ask no more.

His propensity to love, is well known to every one who has the smallest acquaintance with his writings: On this subject he has laid himself open to censure, and his commentators have not failed to censure him abundantly; it is amusing to see some, who have not pointed out a single beauty, shew much discernment here: The exceptionable passages are not however so numerous, and they admit of many palliatives. The notions of decorum in his times, were very different from what prevail at present, with those who have the advantage of the strict morality of Christianity. Horace lived a court life, and had for his patron and example Mecenas, one, who, though possessed of shining accomplishments, indulged much in sensual pleasures. He had naturally extreme sensibility, was volatile and flexible; he was consequently easily led to whatever promised him pleasure. But what is perhaps the principal cause of these disagreeable passages, is that openness of heart, so eminent, I may say, so peculiar to our author, who conceals nothing from us; even his worst and impurest thoughts. Had he possessed the cunning, to draw a

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veil over some of his biases, like the rest of the world, I am persuaded, we would have found him one of the most delicate writers.

If Horace has been sometimes gross in the matters of love, he has much oftener shewn, what the nicest refinements of that passion are; he has presented us with more elegant and natural ideas on this subject, than perhaps any other writer ancient or modern. Of this, if it were necessary, many beautiful proofs could be easily produced.

But the best proof of his capacity for refined love, is the purity, and disinterested warmth of his friendships. On this quarter, we behold him, not only without any alloy of dissatisfaction, but with the highest delight; he shews an attachment to all his friends, that is not only soft and amiable, but inexpressibly lively and strong. In the ode to Pompeius Varus, he recalls to his mind their former intimacy, which causes in him a tumultuousness of joy he can scarcely contain; after proposing much festivity on the occasion, he tells us, that it is even pleasant for him to play the madman on the reception of a friend. In his own elegant words,

—recepto

Dulce mihi est furere amico.

Our transports for a friend restor'd,
Should even to madness shake the board.

In that beautifully romantic ode to Septimius, he concludes in this affecting manner.

*Ille te mecum locus, et beatæ
Postulant arces: Ibi tu calentem
Debita sparges lacrima flavillam
Vatis amici.*

That happy place, that sweet retreat,
The charming hills, that round it rise,
Your latest hours and mine await;
And when at length your Horace dies,

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ON HORACE.

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There the deep sigh thy post-friend shall mourn,
And pious tears bedew his glowing urn.

The consolatory ode to Virgil on the death of Quintilius, may be mentioned as another fine instance of the tenderness of friendship. This elegant and ingenious elegy need not be quoted.

The ode on Virgil's sailing to Athens, is also of the same kind. The expression *meae dimidium animae*, though very natural in the mouth of Horace, would savour of extravagant bombast any where else.

But what surpasses all I have mentioned on this subject, is the ode to Mecenas when sick, the 17th of the 2d book. It exceeds any thing I have seen, for a lively display of tender attachment.

Cur me querelis exanimas tuis ?
Nec diu amicum est, nec mihi, te prius
Obire, Maccenas, mearum
Grande decus, columenque rerum.
Ah ! te meae si partem animae rapit
Maturior vis, quid moror altera
Nec carus aequae, nec superstes
Integer ? Ille diss utramque
Ducet ruinam. Non ego perfidum,
Dixi sacramentum : Ibinus, ibimus,
Utcunque praecedes, supremum
Carpere iter comites parati, &c.

Why will Maccenas thus complain,
Why kill me with the tender strain ?
Nor can the gods nor I consent
That you, my life's great ornament,
Should sink untimely to the tomb,
While I survive the fatal doom.
Should you, alas ! be snatch'd away,
Wherefore, ah ! wherefore should I stay,
My value lost, no longer whole,
And but possessing half my soul ?
One day, believe the sacred oath,
Shall lead the funeral pomp of both ;
With thee to Pluto's dark abode,
With thee I'll tread the dreary road, &c.

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He had not indeed sworn a false oath, for this amiable poet did not survive his generous friend many days.

The capacity which Horace has shewn for moral and philosophical observation in his satyrs and epistles, raises his character very high; but on these we do not mean to enter. Upon this pleasing subject, however, we cannot avoid inserting the following beautiful lines from the 5th satire of the 1st book. Horace, on his journey to Brundisium, meets with his learned friends Plotius, Varius, and Virgil; on this occasion, the idea of enjoying the singular happiness of being the greatest literary men of their time, is entirely out of view, and is willingly lost in the greater happiness, of considering themselves as the most virtuous men. Instead of saluting them as authors, and complimenting one another on their literary accomplishments, our amiable author lets his heart loose to the raptures of friendship, and the natural expressions of it, in its highest degree of warmth and purity, cannot be more elegantly described.

*Postera lux oritur multò gratissima; namque
Plotius et Varius Sinuessae, Virgiliusque
Occurrunt; animae, quales neque candidiores
Terra tulit; neque quis me sit devinctior alter.
O qui complexus, et gaudia quanta fuerant!
Nil ego contulerim jucundo sanus amico.*

Next rising morn with double joy we greet,
For Plotius, Varius, Virgil, here we meet:
Pure spirits these; the world no praver knows;
For none my heart with more affection glows;
How oft did we embrace! Our joys how great!
For sure no blessing in the power of fate
Can be compar'd in sanity of mind,
To friends of such companionable kind.

But Varius was soon obliged to leave them.

Flentibus hic Varius discedit moestus amicis:

Here Varius leaves us, and with tears he goes:
With equal tenderness our sorrow flows.

April 6,

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1791.

ON HORACE.

173

The language of Horace deserves the highest praise; it possesses much purity and classical simplicity, together with a nervous elegance which is to be found in almost every line of his writings. It is extremely spirited and vigorous, nicely correct, and at the same time inimitably graceful and easy. It is nature itself drest by the modest graces.

The greatest admirers of this author, have found fault with him for a want of order and method; a desultory rambling from one subject to another, without any very obvious reason. Of this conduct, the *Art Poetica* has always been pointed out as a noted example*. The complaint is not surely without foundation, though, as Pope has observed, his happy negligence charms us more than artificial order and studied form. He passes sometimes to a subject that is wide of what he first proposed, yet he is always led to the transition by some natural circumstance, which leads his fancy to a train of somewhat similar ideas. Let us take an example.

In the 3d ode of the 1st book, Horace, after first expressing his solicitude for Virgil in his intended voyage to Athens, is naturally enough led to reflect on all the dangers of navigation, from thence also to admire the boldness of him, who first dared these dangers, and at the same time ventured to counteract providence, which he supposes created the ocean, as a barrier to divide one country from another; this species of impiety leads him to mention that of the son of Japetus who stole fire from heaven, and that also of Dedalus, who wished to trespass the laws of man, and attempt his way through the empty air; and lastly that of Hercules, who forced a passage to hell. He concludes with observing, that the pride of man knows no bounds; that in our madness we would even aspire to be gods, and provoke Jupiter to destroy us with his thunderbolts.

* Dr. Hurd's commentary upon the *Art Poetica* may perhaps obviate the objections that have been made against it. *Edit.*

Horace seems originally to propose no more in this ode, as the title imports, than to address the ship which was to carry his friend, to land him safe: but he soon allows his fancy to lead him without restraint into the tract mentioned above, which appears to me to have a more pleasing effect, than though he had kept the strictest reins. Criticism may here lift its rod, but Horace will not cease to please.

I intended to have taken notice of the beautiful spirit of morality, and even of piety, which reigns in the ode, the many striking reflexions on human life, and the many affecting ones on death. But as the passages in which these occur are well known, and frequently quoted, I will not dwell upon them at present.

W. N.

To the Editor of the Bee.

On Marine Plants.

Sir, It will perhaps be a matter of some curiosity to your chemical friends, to hear that from a late analysis of the ashes of marine plants, we have now reason to believe, that they, as well as other vegetables, contain one species of alkaline salt only, viz. the vegetable alkali, and that the fossile alkali which appears in them, is owing to the vegetable alkali, (which they contain in common with other plants), decomposing the sea salt they absorb from the sea. These experiments were made by Doctor Pennington of Philadelphia, and as I have not his paper by me, I will give you the result of them only.

He finds, (after Mr. Bergmarn), that if *potash*, i. e. the vegetable alkali, be mixed with sea salt, this last is decomposed, and fossile alkali is evolved.

That there is no peculiar structure in marine plants to form *fossile alkali*, he concludes, because grass growing on a salt marsh, and burnt, yields a fossile alkali;

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1791.

ON MARINE PLANTS.

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but the same plant on ground far from the sea, invariably yields the vegetable alkali.

And lastly, he traces the *vegetable* alkali in kelp, by saturating a strong solution of its saline parts with the acid of nitre, from which, when properly evaporated, he obtained, by crystallization, perfect crystals of prismatic nitre, with base of vegetable alkali. His theory and conclusion drawn from this experiment are, that sea plants contain vegetable alkali and sea salt; when they are burnt into kelp, the sea salt is decomposed by the alkali; in other words, kelp consists of the marine acid of the sea salt combined with the *vegetable alkali* of the plant, at the same time the fossil alkali of the sea salt is evolved; but when the acid of nitre is added to the pure solution of the saline parts of the kelp, it attaches itself to the vegetable alkali in preference to the fossil alkali, and there forms the common nitre, at the same time detaching the marine acid from it, which uniting with the uncombined fossil alkali, regenerates sea salt. This experiment, which is surely an *experimentum crucis*, has been repeated with success by an ingenious surgeon of Edinburgh.

This hasty scroll is only intended to furnish you with materials for a small part of your entertaining little work; and I request it of you particularly, (if you think it worthy of publication at all), to hand it to your readers in your own words*. I shall be much pleased to contribute a small mite to so useful a work.

Yours,

PHILO CHEMIAE.

* The Editor never wishes to alter the words of his correspondents, unless when they are evidently improper, or do not convey the meaning intended distinctly. In these cases, he may sometimes alter a word, but in general, he wishes to preserve the peculiarity of manner in each communication as entire as possible.

One Englishman a Match for Three Frenchmen, proved.

To the Editor of the Bee.

SIR,

A NOTION which I believe is pretty current among people of this country is, that one Englishman is a match for three of Gallic race. This notion, I must confess, I had long ago set down in my catalogue of popular prejudices; though, if it be a prejudice, there are certainly few which are more salutary, or which a well-wisher to his country would be less eager to remove.

Unless I am very much mistaken, such an opinion, when grounded upon explicit and ostensible foundations, can seldom be firmly rooted in a nation, without being the effect of past merit, and the cause of future. Be this as it may, I little expected to have ever obtained such convincing proofs of the truth of it, I mean in a certain line, as have been lately put into my hands.

The proofs I am speaking of concern the article of seamanship, which, though not the only point of national excellence, is however that on which our existence as a nation, and our hopes of success in time of war, have more dependence than on any other. I have the comfort to perceive, Mr. Editor, and so shall you too before we part, that in point of seamanship one Englishman is literally, and without any exaggeration, a match for three Frenchmen; and that not merely upon this or that particular occasion, but for a constancy, and upon averages taken for a course of years. This appears from the numbers of seamen employed for a given quantity of tonnage in the merchants ships of the two nations: of which a calculation has been lately put into my hands, drawn from long observation, by a person

April 6,

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1791.

FOR THREE FRENCHMEN.

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so circumstanced, that the nature of his business leads him to be perfectly well acquainted with what belongs to the condition of the craft upon the river. This paper I shall now lay before you, whereby you will see, into the bargain, how much better a seaman an Englishman is than a Dane, a Swede, and, above all, than a Spaniard.

COMPLIMENTS of men for ships of different countries, according to their sizes.

Tons Burden.	ENGLISH.			SWEDES.	DANES.	FRENCH.	SPANISH.
	Coasting Trade.	E. Country Trade.	W. Country Trade.				
200	7	8	9	12	12	21	30
300	10	11	12	15	15	28	40
400	13	14	16	20	20	36	50
500	16	17	20	25	25	45	60

N. B. Vessels rigged as brigs will sail with a less number of men, by two or three. Snows require the same as ships.

Of our own trade, that which employs the least number of hands, you may observe, is the coasting trade. The East country trade requires a small addition to the number. This circumstance is probably to be accounted for, partly from the length of the voyage, but principally, perhaps, from the difficulty of the navigation. The difficulty of navigation in the Baltic (which includes the greatest part of the East country trade) is well known. The further addition which is necessary for the West India trade is not at all to be wondered at. The unhealthiness of the climate is particularly felt by a race of men who are so little ob-

Vol. II.

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* Including the trade to the Baltic.

quious to the rules, of plodding prudence. Now, of these three trades, the coasting trade is that which seems to be the fairest object of comparison with the French. Neither in the French nor in the Spanish trade to Britain is there any length of voyage, or unhealthiness of climate, sufficient to occasion any demand for an extraordinary number of hands.

This then being the standard, we may observe, that in ships of the smallest class, the French are *obliged* to employ exactly three times as many hands as we do. Take an average; sum up on each side the whole number of hands employed in all the different sizes; the numbers are, on the French side 130, on the English side 46; that is, so near three to one, that the deficiency is too inconsiderable to be worth noticing. I say obliged; for a French merchant, any more than an English one, is not fond of paying his money for nothing; trust them for employing more than they find necessary.

By the same rule we may perceive, that two Englishmen are nearly equal to three Swedes or Danes; and within the merest trifle (the average numbers being as 150 to 46) equal to four Spaniards. This last disproportion is perfectly surprising. I think I have now pretty well made out the proposition I set out with. I hope and dare believe there are few of your readers, in whose breasts it will not occasion a glow of exultation similar to that which it produced in mine. In this persuasion, I am, &c.

ANGLICUS.

To the Editor of the Bee.

SIR,
I MET with this paper in a book that is not much known in this country. I think it proves a fact that is of a very interesting nature, that cannot be too generally known. By giving it a place in your collection, you will oblige
A CONSTANT READER.

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Anecdote of Captain Pownal, late of the Apollo.*

CAPTAIN Pownal, who made so gallant a figure in the last war, and Captain Sawyer, had agreed to share with each other the amount of whatever prize-money either might separately gain by captures. Putting in at Lisbon, they paid their addresses to the Miss M——s; and, as far as inclination went, were favourably received by the ladies: But their father, a merchant of immense property, although sensible of their personal merit, objected to their want of fortune, and desired, that they would relinquish all thoughts of continuing their courtship, until they should become more affluent. Soon after the lucrative division of the prize-money, gained by the capture of the Hermione, had made a more than favourable change in their circumstances, the earthquake happened at Lisbon, and Mr. M—— lost all his property. These generous captains immediately repaired to Lisbon; where, yielding to the full and noble gratification of love and friendship, they settled an annuity on the father, and desired the daughters to accept their hands in marriage. The request was complied with, and domestic mutual felicity became the consequence.

To be able sincerely to love any one who surpasses us, it is not enough that he should not know it; it is also necessary that others should be ignorant of it: in one word, we ourselves should alone be sensible of it.

Men frequently complain of the weight of taxes; but this vague manner of speaking conveys no distinct idea to the mind: it is necessary that particulars should be distinctly stated and fairly weighed, before we can know whether these complaints are well or ill founded. This is done in one case in the following paper; and as it affords an opportunity of comparing the state of one part of the country with others, particularly in respect to some local taxes, the Editor thought it might prove very acceptable to many of his readers.

A View of the amount of Taxes, in proportion to the rent of an Estate, in Suffolk, by Arthur Young, Esq.

I HAVE near a nominal 300 l. a-year here: The following detail of taxes will shew that it is *but nominal*.

I must premise, that I reckon the tythe rates and windows of two or three tenants, the same in the account as if paid by myself: for they are in fact as much paid by me as the sums so assessed on my own farm; of this the proof is sufficiently clear, to those who have tythe free or extra-parochial farms to let: the rent is exactly proportioned to such circumstances. These burthens fall on a given portion of landed property; it matters not then by whose hand they are paid; the proprietor will be sure to feel that all issues from his pocket.

Tythes,	{ My own *,	L. 31	0	0	
	{ A tenant,	10	0	0	
	{ Ditto,	10	0	0	
					L. 51 0 0
Carried forward,					L. 51 0 0

* Mr. Burke's expression made me smile, " *Revenues*, which, taken from no person, are set apart for virtue.

ESQ. April 6,

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1791. ON TAKES, BY ARTHUR YOUNG, ESQ. 181

Brought forward, - L. 51 0 0

Poor rates, - - - { L. 33 0 0
10 0 0
7 0 0
3 0 0

Land tax, - - - 53 0 0^{*}
Road duty and turnpike, - - - 39 12 0
5 6 0

Affessed taxes, - - { L. 18 17 6
7 7 0
1 0 0
0 8 0

Manor of Bradfield Combust,
castle guard-rent, - L. 0 4 5
Lands in Bradfield Combust,
castle guard-rent, - 0 2 8
Feudal quit-rent, - 2 2 7

L. 179 0 2

Consumption of malt
in the family, 6 qrs.
at 14 s. 6 d. a quar-
ter, tax - L. 4 7 0

Pay annually to my
own labourers, 33 l.
in lieu of beer,
which, in the same
ratio, is for the tax 11 19 3

L. 16 6 3

Carried forward, L. 16 6 3 | 179 0 2

* It is requested the proprietors in Scotland will advert to these two
articles. *Edin.*

Brought forward, — L. 16 6 3 | 179 0 2
 36 acres of barley annually,
 produce 4 qrs.; 144 qrs.
 pay in malt-tax 2 l. 18 s. an
 acre; and if 3 qrs. of this crop,
 (deducting 4 bushels for seed
 and 4 more for poultry, hogs,
 &c.) are brewed into $7\frac{1}{2}$ bar-
 rels of ale, at 5 s. 10 d. a bar-
 rel, duty, it is 2 l. 5 s. 2 d. per
 ac. together 5 l. 3 s. 2 d.; while
 the total value of the produce
 of eastern counties of the king-
 dom, does not exceed, at 20 s.
 the sum of 4 l. A produce
 taxed like this, at 125 per cent.
 of the value, must be lessened
 in the consumption and price
 greatly: I shall suppose, to a-
 void all exaggeration, that this
 deduction in price to be only
 4 s. a qr. or the 3 qrs. per acre
 fold; this forms a tax of L. 21 12 0

37 18 3

The sale of the wool of my own flock a-
 mounts to 30 l. a-year; the depression
 of the price, by reason of the cruel mo-
 nopoly given by our laws to the ma-
 nufacturers, has been clearly proved, in
 various passages of this work, to amount
 on carding wool, to 10 per cent. of the
 value†, — — — — — 3 0 0

L. 219 18 5

Of the numerous duties on consumption, in the forms
 of customs, excises, stamps, and incidents, I have calcu-
 lated my payments, but do not include them in this ac-

† In combing wool it is cent. per cent.

ESQ. April 6,
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1791. ON TAXES, BY ARTHUR YOUNG, ESQ. 183

count, as they are more connected with income, in general, than with specified receipt from a given portion of land. I will however remark, in order to instigate others to make similar calculations, which are really curious exhibitions of taxation, that for my consumption of wine, tea, sugar, candles, soap, insurance against fire, flampa, salt, and coals, I pay the sum of 26 l. 4 s. 5 d. exclusive of the further articles of leather, glass, currants, raisins, spices, drugs, deals, iron, hemp, flax, rum, brandy, printed linen, paper, &c. &c. These would probably raise the sum to 40 l.

But recurring solely to the 219 l. 18 s. 5 d. the amount of taxes paid by my estate, let me explain what it pays me as proprietor:

Gross rental, - - - - - L. 295 3 0

Deductions.

Land tax,* - - - - -	L. 39 2 0
Quit rent,* - - - - -	2 2 7
Cattle guards,* - - - - -	0 7 1
Repairs, on the average of 7 years, - - - - -	23 8 9
	65 10 5

Net receipt, - - - - - L. 229 12 7

Hence it appears, that out of a portion of land which yields the proprietor 229 l. 12 s. 7 d. the public burthens take 219 l. 18 s. 5 d. !!!

ANNALS OF AGRICULTURE.

* The three articles marked thus (*) seem to be improperly here stated, as being twice charged.—*Edit.*

The Editor has stated these articles precisely as given by the author. He is aware that several of the items may be challenged, as doubtful or improper. But he did not think it right, in stating an author's own facts, to alter or mitigate them. It would take too much room to point out the errors particularly here, but it shall be done in a future Number. *Edit.*

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On Insects, from Lavater's Treatise on Physiognomy.

Mr. LAVATER of Geneva, is one of the most excentric geniuses of the present age. Few of our readers have not heard of his treatise on physiognomy, though the great price of that work must preclude many of them from having opportunity of perusing it. The work abounds with observations founded on nature, but intermixed with such a variety of whimsical and capricious ideas, as renders it rather a work of amusement than instruction. The style is suitable to it, as a work of exuberant fancy, flowery and highly figurative, rather than philosophically just. The following short extract from it being an episodic digression, will serve to give those who cannot see the work itself, some idea of the matter to be met with in it, as well as of the manner in which it is executed.

What infinite variety has the all-wise Creator displayed in the characteristic marks of every species and degree of vital power!

How has he imprinted on every creature, the distinctive character which is peculiar to it! and how strikingly visible is this in the last class of the animal kingdom!

The world of insects is a world apart; and though the beings which compose it, are such as have least relation to the human species, the physiognomist will not disdain to study them, as the observations which they furnish serve to support his system.

The form of every insect clearly indicates the degree of its active or passive force, and how far it is capable of enjoying, or destroying, of suffering or resisting. Is it not visible, for example, that those insects, whose wings are hard and compact, have a character of force, capa-

April 6,

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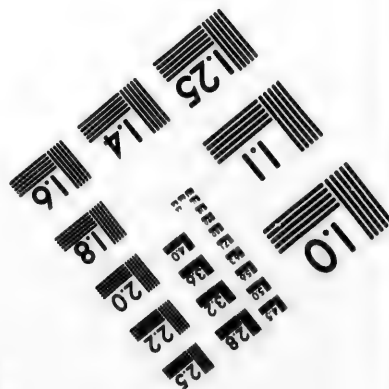
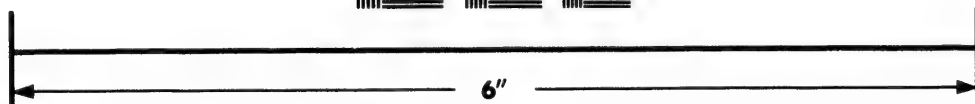
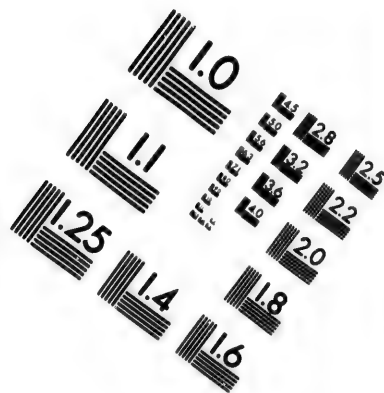
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city and resistance which is wanting to the butterfly, whose wings are so fine and delicate?

"Is not the softest substance at the same time the weakest, the most passive, the most liable to destruction? Do not insects, being almost entirely destitute of brain, differ more than all other creatures from man, who is so amply furnished with that organ?

"Is there not a clearly marked distinction between every species of insects, and do you not discover, at the first glance, whether they be warlike and capable of resistance, or weak and defenceless? whether they be destined for enjoyment or destruction?

"The great dragon-fly is endowed with a lightness and agility, which are visibly manifested in the structure of her wings. It is in the act of flying that she carries off with so much address, the little gnats on which she feeds. What slowness on the contrary, in the crawling caterpillar! with what precaution she puts down her feet to reach the leaf she means to gnaw! a substance so soft was not made for resistance. The caterpillar, called the land measurer, long and extended like a withered twig, has still less animation.

"Who does not see, as he follows with his eye, the light and frolicsome butterfly, an insect formed for soft and trivial enjoyment? who so blind as not to perceive a higher degree of force in the industrious bee, destined to suck the juice of flowers? the fly is free and nimble; but how easy is it to see that his force has not, like that of the bee, a determinate end! the night butterfly, slow, peaceful, harmless, is a striking contrast to the active and murderous spider, who remains suspended in the centre of her net, only to dart with the greater ease on the insects which are caught in it. What activity and daring perseverance in the patient ant! in a word, what expression of solidity and resistance in the the May bug, covered with a coat of mail, and in the different kinds of scarabs; some of which are clothed

with a strong shell, and others with a bristly buckler, thick set with sharp points or long horns !"

The plates which accompany the English edition of this work are extremely elegant. That which belongs to this part of the work, is here exactly copied.

The plate represents a branch of a mulberry, with leaves and fruit, on which is seen a silk worm feeding, and various other well known insects.

A short Character of Mr. Pelham.

MR. PELHAM'S manners were mild, plausible, and insinuating. Upon all occasions he preserved the decency of a gentleman, and the respectableness of office. By much apparent candour, and always knowing when to yield, he turned the edge of opposition, though engaged in the prosecution of those ruinous measures of government which were in some degree entailed upon him, he has usually been considered as a man of integrity and honour; and however mistaken in his maxims of administration, is supposed to have been actuated by a sincere love for his country.

T. R.

Character of the Duke of Newcastle.

THIS nobleman was the brother and successor of Mr. Pelham. His abilities were the slenderest, perhaps, that were ever hazarded in so important a station. He was chiefly distinguished by his unfeigned attachment to the house of Brunswick, and as one of the leaders of the whig party. It was his delight to be surrounded with a crowd of dependents, and to appear distracted with a multiplicity of business. His manners were those of bustling importance; his judgment was confused, headstrong, and abrupt. Mr. Fox, during this administration, held the important office of Secretary of State.

T. R.

April 6

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*Extracts from Poems on several occasions, by R. Cum-
ming, just published.*

From Happiness, a Poem.

A Rural Prospect.

MAN, form'd for happiness, beheld with joy
Her gentle mien, in Nature's varied scenes;
Whether sublime or simple, as the rose
To his enraptur'd view—the spacious sky—
The smiling earth—the towering mountains green,
With all their pendant rocks—the mighty sea,
Or crystal lake;—her radiant steps divine
He trac'd, in the green shade, or vocal grove,
Meand'ring stream, or rill, or bubbling font,
Th' enamel'd plain, or mead, or sunny hill;
Or fruits and flowers, which in profusion hung
In beauteous clusters from the bending boughs;
Beneath whose cooling shade the swains reclin'd,
And nymphs, as chaste and fair as ever grac'd
Th' Arcadian plains: around them fondly play'd
The happy harmless flocks, that rang'd at will
The flowery mead or climb'd the verdant hill.

The effects of War.

DEPOPULATE now, the rural village stands;
The aged fire hears not the ev'ning song,
Nor views with joy the dance upon the green.
The widow'd matron, with her helpless babes,
Meets not her husband from the toilful plough,
Nor the lov'd maid her shepherd from the hill.
No more's o'er-tair'd the now deserted globe,
No more the harvest waves on ev'ry field;
Nor joyful reapers taste convivial mirth:
Silent is now the once delightful scene,
The way-lost trav'ler finds no gen'rous aid,
Nor sees with joy the grateful face of man.
The beasts of prey roam through the pathless grass,
And the night raven, from the mould'ring hall
Screams sad and pensive to the midnight air.

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Such scenes as these have but too often stain'd
 The boasted arms of Persia, Greece and Rome :
 As when proud Xerxes pour'd his millions forth,
 To spread destruction o'er illustrious Greece ;
 Or when the Macedonian hero led,
 Across the Hellespont, his barb'rous host,
 And drench'd with blood the Asiatic plains :
 Or when the far-fam'd Scipio overthrew
 Th' illust'rous Hannibal on Afric's sands,
 When he, by means unb'arous, and unjust,
 Triumph'd o'er the already conquer'd foe,
 And raz'd ill-fated Carthage to the ground :
 Or when the same oppressors of the world
 Extended far and wide their proud domain,
 By fraud, or force, bound nations in their chains,
 Made kings to tremble on their tottering thrones,
 Or meanly bow 'neath their imperious sway.

The love of Fame.

From the poor peasant to the hoary sage,
 The love of fame bears universal sway.
 Eager to climb the steep and thorny path,
 The soldier braves the dangers of the field.
 The hoary statesman, 'midst the jarring powers
 Of adverse parties, with a steady hand,
 Directs each movement to the end in view ;
 The lawyer, ardent in pursuit of praise,
 Tries ev'ry method, and exerts each power,
 Which either thought or language can afford,
 To raise the wonder, or attract th' esteem
 Of a surrounding world—From th' artist's touch,
 The finest works of genius still arise,
 Cloth'd with each beauty Nature can inspire ;
 The justest praises his bold fancy warm,
 And guide with nicest skill, his ready hand.
 And even the mitr'd brow, though rais'd to heaven,
 Is fond to add the wreath of earthly fame.
 All feel and foster this all-pow'ful charm,
 But find at last, that disappointment lurks
 Beneath the foldings of its treach'rous maze.
 Thus the illustrious few.—Millions beside,
 Within a dull, unmeaning circle move,
 Whose chiefest pride's to grace a midnight ball,
 Receive the homage of a grow'ling tribe,
 Or flatter in their turn a higher rank.

The Miser.

The sordid miser in the dead of night,
Starts from his wretched bed; perhaps he dreams
Some one has seiz'd his gold—with trembling hands,
He opens his iron chest—the rusty bolts
Grate slow and harsh, like his discordant soul:
A taper dim emits a feeble gleam.
His rheumy eyes stare horribly around,
And on his cash by turns—The blackest hell
Burns in his frantic soul, for still he doubts;
But, at the last, the shiv'ring wrinkl'd wretch
Counts o'er his bags, and for a moment feels,
Within his frozen heart, (where ne'er arofe
One kind emotion to his fellow men),
A gloomy something, which resembles joy,
That his lov'd treasure yet entire remains.

Benevolence.

Come, then, benev'lence, with thy sacred sweets,
Which tune the soul to harmony and love:
Come, fairest offspring of thy parent source;
In thee alone, true happiness resides.
By thy celestial pow'r, the mind is rais'd
To heav'n itself! to happiness divine!
Such pleasure, as th' Almighty Father feels,
When scatt'ring blessings, o'er unnumber'd worlds.
What inspiration, in the human breast,
This dear, this heav'n-born principle awakes!
How many ways diverge its sacred beams!
How many objects feel its gentle pow'r!
What grateful, what innumerable sweets return,
To bless the generous bosom where it dwells!

Howard.

O! work divine, to sooth the woes of life,
To banish mi's'ry from th' abodes of men!
How it rewards itself, they best can tell,
Whose souls are formed for such Godlike deeds.
O gentle HOWARD! oft thy bosom felt
This heav'n-born happiness, this purest joy!
How has this sacred principle inspir'd
Thy gen'rous soul, and thy unwearied steps,

Directed through the habitable globe;
 Bringing relief, and consolation dear,
 Diffusing goodness to thy fellow men;
 Thou friend of mankind, from the humble muse,
 Accept this tribute to thy sacred worth.

 REVIEW.

A Letter from Mr. Gunning, addressed to his Grace the Duke of Argyll. 8vo. Ridgeway, 3 s. 6 d. 1791.

Few of our readers have not heard of the singular transaction that gave rise to this letter; but that it may be immediately before them, it will be necessary briefly to state, that Lord B—— son of the duke of M——gh, having for some time cultivated an acquaintance with Miss Gunning, daughter to General Gunning, and niece to the Dukes of Argyll, made at length proposals of marriage to her in writing. This letter the young lady communicated to her father, who himself wrote to the Duke of M——gh, to know if the proposals of his son met with concurrence. To this letter he received a satisfactory answer; but upon a farther investigation, it appeared that these letters had been forged, without the knowledge of the parties by whom they had been said to be written. The question now is to ascertain by whom these letters were fabricated, and for what purpose they were made.

The report that was first circulated on this subject was, that the letters had been contrived and written by Miss Gunning herself. That she had a partiality for her cousin Lord L——n, and that these letters were intended to try to awaken his attention, and bring him forward, for fear that she should be carried off by his rival; and so much was her father persuaded, as it is said, of the impropriety of this procedure in his daughter, that he turned her out of his house on that account, as unworthy of his protection.

to his Grace the
s. 6 d. 1791.

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Such is the extraordinary story that has been passing in the polite circle for some time past. That the letters in question were forged, seems to be admitted on all hands; and that General Gunning turned his daughter out of his house is a certain fact. The present publication, it was expected, would have cleared up all the other difficulties; but in this respect it is unsatisfactory; and farther light must be thrown on the subject before the nature of this extraordinary transaction can be fully understood.

The writer of the letter under consideration has been ill advised, when she was permitted to lay before the public a rhapsody, consisting of the warmest panegyrics on the one party, and the darkest insinuations concerning the other, with a very few facts thinly scattered here and there, which are so buried in a multiplicity of words and reflections, that an attentive reader finds great difficulty to seize them. The following are what struck us upon a careful perusal, as the most important facts here adduced.

Of one thing there can be no doubt, that General G— and his Lady, have not for many years past lived in much cordiality in their family. Almost every line in this performance shews that the lady entertained a very unfavourable opinion of her husband, and it is very evident that no love was lost between them. The female part of the family, viz. Mrs. Gunning, Miss Gunning, and Miss Minifie sister to Mrs. Gunning, appear to have lived in great harmony together.

As General G—g by his public conduct, has stigmatised his daughter as the contriver and executor of these forgeries, it is the design of the present publication to vindicate her from this imputation; and it goes farther, to fix the guilt of this atrocity upon the General himself, and his associates. The following facts, taken, as the writer says, from memorandums written at the time the events happened, will shew what are her intentions.

MEMORANDUM I.

Feb. 24. "Between eleven and twelve this morning, General Gunning has sent off his groom with a letter to the — of —, which letter he has written in his dressing room, but has not shewn it to any of his family."

MEMORANDUM II.

Feb. 3d. Nine o'clock at night. "General Gunning's groom is just now returned from——. He brought back a letter to his master; I sent for it, examined the direction and the seal. Captain and Mrs. Bowen, my daughter and sister, were present. I told them *some tricks* had certainly been played with the letter, and pointed out to their observation, that the coronet was reversed in the sealing it, and that instead of *St. James's*, it was written on the direction, *St. James's Place*. I then gave it to the servant to lay it on his master's table, for General Gunning was not at home."

MEMORANDUM III.

Feb. 4th. "General Gunning was in my daughter's room this morning before she was up, and informed her he had received a charming letter from the—— of——, which he had left with the Duke of Argyll; and also told her, he had been last night at Argyll-House for that purpose; and this most charming letter has been shown to her, and my heart partakes in her joy, though I have not seen the contents, but she repeated them to me as nearly as she can remember them. I am as much transported with her happiness, as if I had, and (as her mother), I ought to have been consulted on every step that has been taken; but should General Gunning really mean now to act fairly by my heart's treasure, if he no longer works under ground to impede her felicity, I will forgive all his past reserves, although under the severity of their pressure, I have been suffering the pangs of torture for so many months.—If he is not conscious that his wishes are opposed to my wishes, on a point where both should be equally interested, why does he throw out so many dark hints, and never speak to me with confidence or kindness; why then shew the D—— of——'s letter to me, if every thing is really coming to a crisis?—There is a darkness in his conduct, that I do not comprehend. Another circumstance that gives me suspicion; he has been this day examining the servant who brought the letter up stairs, very closely, whether we looked much at the seal; and at the direction, and how long we kept it the first and second time that we sent for it.—Surely he knows me too well, not to know that I should, on no occasion, condescend to open any letter that was not directed to myself.—What then can he mean by being so inquisitive!—'tis very odd.—I do not like it.—I have been so long in a scene of miseries, of which he is the artificer, that I never expect to get out of them as long as I live!"

The state of the lady's mind will clearly appear from the above memorandum, which is on that account quoted at length; with the same view some passages are here put into italics that were not so in the copy.

It would be tiresome to quote more at length. Let it suffice to say, that next day, February 5th, Mrs. Bowen, in the absence of Miss G——, announced that young lady

April 6,

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to her mother as a *wretch* of the basest kind; who had been imposing falsehoods upon that indulgent mother, that could not fail to kill her, when they were known, she said, that about five days before, the young lady had, in confidence written to Mrs. Bowen a letter, purporting that she was to marry L. — I. — n and not L. — B. —, and begging Mrs. Bowen, to hint that to her mama; and that she had farther inclosed a letter from the D. — of M. — with a desire to have it transcribed by Captain Bowen, for her. These letters Mrs. G. — earnestly requested to see, which Mrs. B. promised to do next day. On calling next day, February 6th, the letters were delivered to Mrs. Gunning; but upon examination, it was found that the name of Lord L. — n was misspelled; as well as that of the D. — of M. —, and that both were, as the writer asserts, *black-forgeries*. On the morning of February 8th, an anonymous letter was sent to Miss Minifie at General Gunning's, *St. James's place*, exactly the same address as we have seen the forged letter from the D. — of M. — of February 3d bore. This anonymous letter General Gunning next day acknowledged was written by Captain Bowen. Hence the writer infers the probability of the other having come from the same quarter; and as this last was written with the privacy of the general himself, the reader is left to conjecture, if the *first* might not have been so also. That there has been something improper in the conduct of Mr. and Mrs. Bowen, as the matter at present stands, seems highly probable. The letter written by Mrs. B. on the 12th of February to Miss G., see p. 119, wears a most suspicious appearance; after having accused this young lady to her mother, as being a wretch capable of forgery and every other meanness, Mrs. B. now solicits an interview with her, as *her sincere friend*, wishing to make up matters between her and her father, and alarming her fears at the same time, that if she does not comply with her request, she will be involved in inevitable misery.

This letter, which has every appearance of being calculated to answer *some particular purpose*, is concluded by the two following earnest postscripts:

"I have sent Mr. B. — out of the way on purpose."
Sunday even, half past six.

VOL. II.

†

B B

"I have been denied to every one who call'd on me, and would not go out lest I should be asked any questions concerning you, whilst I saw a possibility of making up matters."

This letter was written two days after General Gunning had driven his daughter from his house.

Several other attempts were made to induce Mrs. G— to suppress the letter now before us, particularly a verbal proposal by General G— to Mrs. G— on the 23d February, purporting, that if she would agree to suppress this letter, he would abstain from publishing six affidavits he had obtained on this subject; but this proposal being rejected.

On the evening of the 24th, Mrs. Bowen forced herself into the apartment of Mrs. Gunning, under the pretence of friendship, and attempting to make up the difference; and her husband at the same time attempted to gain admission into the house; but being both turned out, they went away. Mr. Bowen leaving this message with the servants, to be delivered to his friend General Gunning's daughter and his wife: "Tell them, said he, they will repent their folly; I came to save them from destruction; to-morrow will be a terrible day for them; and in three days Miss Gunning will be sent to Newgate."

These threats not producing the desired effect, General Gunning wrote a letter himself to his daughter, dated the 28th February, in which, with many expressions of kindness, he warmly solicits an interview with her, leaving her to name the time and place; but, this proposal she declined, until her character should be publicly vindicated from the base aspersions that had been thrown upon it.

The following is the affidavit emitted by Miss Gunning, before William Hyde Esquire, one of his majesty's justices of the peace.

Accusations alleged against me. *My Answers on oath.*

1. I am accused of having written letters in the name of the D— of M—, and of L— B—; and also of writing anonymous letters.

1. I have never written, or caused to be written, any letter or note, in my whole life, in a disguised hand, by a fictitious name, or anonymous.

2. I am accused of going to Mrs. Bowen's lodgings, on Sunday the

2. I never was in Mrs. Bowen's lodgings in my life; I never met

April 6.

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6th of February; about the forged letter produced by her. I never saw her by appointment, or by chance, at any third place; the only place in which I have seen her, has been at my father's house, or in my father's carriage, and never without my father or my aunt being present. I never wrote her a note or a letter in my life; I never spoke to her confidentially on any subject whatever.

3. I am accused of having bribed papa's groom, not to go to Blenheim with a letter from papa to the D— of M—, and a narrative of my writing, which I had drawn out at the request of papa, for the purpose (as he said) of being sent to the D— of M—; that I bribed the groom, not really to go to Blenheim, but to say he had been there, and to deliver, as coming from the D— of M—, a letter that I had given him for that purpose.

3. I never spoke to papa's groom, or caused him to be spoken to, prior to, or on the subject of his journey to Blenheim; I gave him no orders whatever, or any letter whatever; I believed he had been at Blenheim; and that the letter he brought back, was from the D— of M—; and I felt happy and grateful for the honour his Grace had done me.

On the whole, though this matter is still involved in obscurity, and cannot be fully understood from the facts yet laid before the public; yet as the matter at present stands, we see many reasons for thinking that the lady has met with injustice from some quarter, which time will probably bring to light.

Whatever may be the truth, General Gunning has certainly acted with a cruel precipitancy in this case respecting his daughter. If he had no concern himself in these machinations, (and it supposes such a depth of villainy to suspect him of it, that few will be ready to believe it possible), it was surely his duty, as the guardian of his daughter, and the protector of the honour of his family, to be absolutely certain, that there could be no room to hesitate, as to her guilt, before he proceeded to inflict a punishment that was to be attended with such consequences as this must be. According to the facts stated in this letter by Miss Minifie, p. 96. he never took the smallest care to investigate the truth in any way. He accused a young girl

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(and youth and atrocious guilt are seldom connected together) of crimes of the most flagitious nature ; but gave her no opportunity of asserting her own innocence, or refuting the calumnies, with which it was certainly *possible* she might be loaded. He asserted to her aunt, that she had forged the letters ; that she could counterfeit many kinds of writing ; that she had variety of seals ; and as a proof of the truth of all this, required her to go directly and get her keys, and that she would find in her repositories the copies of these very letters. Miss M. went directly, and got, without hesitation, the keys she asked, searched the repositories of the young lady, but found nothing of the sort she was sent for. Still, however, he insisted she was guilty ; said she had burnt the copies of the letters, and insisted that she should go to the country, or leave England, which she declining to do till her innocence should be vindicated, he ordered her peremptorily to quit his house. Will any person say that this conduct discovered even the temperance of an equitable judge, far less the tenderness of an indulgent parent ? Had this been done in a sudden fit of phrenzy, some apology might have been pleaded for it. But even this cannot be pleaded in extenuation. It was a cool and deliberate act.

We have already said, that the letter before us is written in a declamatory and unsatisfactory manner ; but if we can judge of the human heart, this is not unnatural in a case of this sort ; when the heart is inspired with conscious rectitude, when accused of guilt, it wishes to amplify, and dwell on every circumstance, none of which it can permit to escape. It heaps up arguments and reasoning, which never can be full enough. This produces a tiresome languor to the reader, who has not patience to enter into all those minutiae which appeared to the writer as circumstances of the highest importance ; a person in these circumstances cannot think of intrusting the materials to another, to have them properly digested ; for every alteration appears to weaken the argument, however much they might strengthen it in the eyes of others. On these principles, the very faults of this pamphlet will perhaps be accounted excellencies by those who have ever experienced a situation nearly similar to that of the writer.

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In every part of the pamphlet, where the young lady herself is suffered to act or speak, she appears in an amiable point of view. We discover no shuffling, no evasion, no artifice on her part, in any of the scenes that come under view; so that if she was really guilty of the crimes laid to her charge, she must be a most accomplished dissembler indeed. This we frankly say we shall be very unwilling to believe; and shall require much stronger proofs to convince us than any that have as yet been brought forward.

In every part of this pamphlet, the writer seems to court a full and minute investigation of facts; and this we cannot help thinking, it behoves all the parties concerned, who are not partners in guilt, most minutely to explore. Something very bad must have been here acted. If the crime be not brought home to the guilty, it must overwhelm some innocent person with very undeserved obloquy; justice therefore requires, that after things have gone thus far, no palliatives should be adopted. We shall therefore think, that if the high persons concerned do not investigate this matter to the utmost, they will be guilty of the most cruel of all assassinations, that of wantonly destroying, as much as is in their power, the character of the innocent. In a cause of this nature, no man should stand unconcerned; for if so, no person can be certain that he himself, however innocent, may not be involved in ruin. Innocence can only be protected by the detection of guilt; and we trust that in this, as in every other case, in this land of freedom, the question shall never be abandoned till truth be fully brought to light.

The threats of general Gunning and captain Bowen concerning Miss Gunning being thrown into Newgate, have not yet been verified. By an advertisement published in all the London papers, Captain and Mrs. Bowen now promise to answer this pamphlet before the judges in Westminster-hall. Time will discover if this shall be done.

In the mean while, General Gunning has delayed publishing the six affidavits he sent to Mrs. G—— on the 23d of February. These affidavits are by Mr. and Mrs. Bowen, the general's groom, a stable keeper, two butlers, a French footman, and an Irish chambermaid.

ARTICLE II.

Miscellanies in Prose and Verse, 8vo. 1791. Printed by J. Robertson. No price nor bookseller's name marked.

In our last Number, we gave some extracts from a Book just printed, intituled, "Miscellanies in Prose and Verse." We mentioned, that the work was not intended for sale, as the greater part of the impression has been distributed to the acquaintances of the Learned Lord, who has contributed so largely to the collection. For the sake of such of his Lordship's friends as may not have received a copy, we are glad to hear that a small number of supernumerary copies still remain in the hands of the printer, J. Robertson, No. 39. South Bridge Street, Edinburgh.

Of the poetical part of this Miscellany we entertain so good an opinion, that we think we shall please a great part of our readers, by selecting some farther specimens of it; though we do not wish to anticipate the reader's opinion. It consists of between eighty and an hundred different pieces; of these many are translations or imitations, from some of the Greek poets, from Horace, and other Roman poets; and from Buchanan, Secundus, Chancer, and Spenser, among the moderns. There are besides a variety of moral Essays, and pieces of a lighter strain; and a few Tales. A farther specimen shall be laid before our readers at the first opportunity.

Remarks on some English Plays, extracted from this Miscellany, continued from page 157.

King Henry VIII. a Tragedy, by Shakespeare.

THE critical introduction to this play is proper, just, and sufficient; a singular case! There is a curious and excellent original prologue to this play, which, with other, invaluable parts of Shakespeare, is in danger of being lost, by the fault of modern editors and emendators, who have most abominably suppressed and altered his works. I wish his just admirers, who will certainly join with me in condemning the bulk of his critics, and all his emendators, would also concur with me in obtaining a new publication of the oldest edition, without any criticism or commentary whatever; otherwise there is a serious danger that great part of the original may be totally lost, and the rest be confounded and corrupted by modern alterations and additions. Among other foolish topics agitated by some of Shakespeare's critics, they make a quic-

1791. Printed by
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tion if he was a Protestant. There are many proofs that he was; and one line of the Bishop's admirable prophetic speech, in this play, is decisive on the point, viz.

"God shall be truly known, &c."

The first Part of Henry IV.

SHAKESPEARE's genius tramples upon, and transcends at once, all the rules of criticism, and the dull solemnity of critics, in this admirable play. Too much of the original is suppressed. But this commendation is due to our stage-reformers, that none of them have dared to alter a word, or to add a word, in the parts of the Henries and Falstaff. What Dryden, playing on the word, says, of the Church of England, may be applied here,

"And lest deform'd, because reform'd the least."

The Second Part of Henry IV.

THE capital characters are preserved with amazing uniformity and variety in this Second Part, though it pleases not the critics, and the million, so well as the first.

The stage-managers have taken monstrous liberties with this play, and have suppressed whole scenes, some of them in the highest style of Shakespeare's excellence. For this infamous depredation, the lovers of Shakespeare can only be indemnified, by resorting to the original. For one example, the first scene may be ranked with the highest and best of Shakespeare's writings, yet is totally suppressed in this play, though it has been almost wholly introduced by Colly Cibber, into different places of what he called his Richard the Third.

The Tempest, a Comedy.

THIS play is one of the wonders of Shakespeare's genius. He flies into the regions of romance and imagination, and yet forms characters and scenes that seem natural and credible.

The Alchymist, a Comedy, by Ben Jonson.

THE alterations and additions in this play, were framed by Garrick, to make his London audience laugh; and so are good for nothing.

* After all, it seems extremely doubtful, whether Shakespeare was a Protestant, or any thing else; for the ghost in Hamlet is a notorious Roman Catholic. The following sentence, in the 1st Act, 3rd Scene, may help to explain his sentiments on religion. "If you deny the spleen, and will laugh at yourselves into stitches, follow me; you gall Malvolio is turned Heathen, a very rascalous fellow." For there is no Christian that means to be saved by believing rightly, can ever believe such idle, & possible passages of profanity. On another passage, in the same play, Dr. Johnson observes, that it were much to be wished, that Shakespeare, in some of his other passages, had not ventured so near profaneness. In a different play, he ridicules the doctrine of a future state.

It is not absurd to think of judging of the private opinions of a dramatic writer by those he puts into the mouths of his characters; for these must speak as they would themselves have done, without any regard to the writer's own private opinions. A Jew must speak as a Jew, a Christian as a Christian, and a Turk as a faithful Mussulman. Edit.

* Our Critic has here, for once, ventured to surmise Shakespeare; DESIRE is the common reading.

*Intelligence respecting Arts, &c.**Farther intelligence concerning the metallic calces of certain Earths.*

As truth shall ever be the great object of all our enquiries, we shall not be more anxious to obtain early accounts of new discoveries than solicitous to guard against deceptions of any sort. The discoveries made in Germany respecting the metallic qualities of many substances that had been hitherto deemed mere earths, were announced in our first Number, and these discoveries were apparently confirmed by some subsequent experiments mentioned in No. 8.

The matter however is not yet put out of doubt, as will appear by the following extract of a letter just come to hand:

"Mr. Ruprecht's famous discoveries, which I mentioned to you, are found out to be complete falacies. By late experiments of Professor Klaproth and Weftrumb, the latter of whom was for some time a convert to Ruprecht's ideas, the metallic appearances have been clearly demonstrated to come from the crucible made use of in the operation."

It is not one, however, nor several experiments, that will be admitted by a cautious person as a *demonstration* of any fact of this kind in chemistry, whether in favour of one hypothesis or another. The truth can only be with certainty known after a great many experiments shall have been made by different persons in different circumstances. If the metallic appearances proceeded entirely from the nature of the crucible, we should have expected that the silicious, as well as the other earths, would have exhibited that metallic appearance. We shall wait with anxiety for further elucidations on this subject.

ERRATUM IN OUR LAST.

Our Readers must have observed a want of connection in the Ballad published last Number, the LAMMY. This was occasioned by the omission of a Stanza, in the hurry of publication. It is as under, and should be inserted after the third verse:

I heid her to my beading heart, my young and smiling lammy!
 I hac a hous, it cost me dear,
 I've walth o' plenashan abd gear,
 Ye'fe get it a', war't ten times mair,
 Gin ye will leave your mammy.

ARTHS. April 6,

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THE BEE,

OR

LITERARY WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER,

FOR

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 1791.

To the Editor of the Bee.

On Scottish Songs.

Sed postquam fuerant digiti cum ore locuti,
Edidit haec tristis dulcia verba modo.

TIB. 43. Ec. iv.

SIR,

PERMIT me, through the channel of your miscellany, to suggest the expediency of a short and liberal enquiry into the use and progress of the admired songs that are sung to melodies, peculiar to the Scottish Low-landers *. The purpose of the following hints is rather to obtain information, than to establish any favourite system of my own. I mean, however, to confine myself to the

* For the difference between them and the Highland vocal airs, consult Mr. McDonald's collection of the latter, published in the year 1784.

words, the music having been treated of in a learned dissertation published some years ago.

I shall first state some circumstances that seem to impeach the high antiquity of these admired lays. In a very rare and curious book *, intitled Scotland's complaint, printed at St. Andrews soon after the fatal battle of Pinkey, the author takes occasion to give a list of the poems, the tales, and the dances, that were then in most repute. The poems are 35 in number, which, from their titles, may have been partly songs. The man of system will, however, be mortified to find, that the *huntis* of Cheviot and the battle of Harlow are the only ones familiar to modern ears. There is, indeed, one † relating to the Duke of Albany and Delabaut, who was slain by the Homes, in the minority of James the V. Hardiknute is none of the tales, some of which were probably in verse; and to the dance-tunes we are equally strangers. It may be said, this is only a specimen; but surely the author's learning and good sense would have led him to prefer excellence to mediocrity; nor was he likely to omit the *Flowers of the Forest*, or a number of other songs, which do honour to the taste and feelings of his countrymen. At the same time, this objection strikes with equal force at the existence of all our ancient poetry, in direct opposition to the most convincing evidence.

But this is not all: Neither in the Bannatyne nor Maitland collection, do we find any of the pastoral songs that are reckoned ancient; and in the former, there is but a single humorous one of any merit ‡. From the specimens of 56 love songs inscribed in it, we learn, that the authors were courtiers and scholars, rather than simple swains. If they followed the model of the old English songs §, the music of which was entirely in

* See Pinkert. Anc. Poem. Introd. p. cvii. Vol. 2. p. 543.

† Pitcottie's History, Ed. 1778, p. 201.

‡ Anc. Poems, 1568, p. 191, 192, 212.

§ Pinkert. Anc. Poems, Vol. 2, p. 498.

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harmony, it need not be wondered at, that they were never popular in a country that delighted only in simple melodies.

Even this omission goes only to prove, that the compilers of the two collections mentioned above, contented themselves with transcribing pieces written by poets, who had figured in the republic of letters. They were perhaps too fastidious to gather the fongs and ballads, that were the delight of the common people. But though the antiquity of the pastoral and humorous ones in question cannot be proved from old manuscripts, they may have existed at a still earlier period, among an idle illiterate people. Having no connection with courts or colleges, they were in no hazard of forming to themselves an artificial taste, on quaint metaphysical models. In that state of society, the effusions of untaught genius are seldom committed to writing, being handed down from father to son by oral tradition. Nothing, indeed, is more easily acquired, or longer remembered, than fongs or tales, conjoined with national music, especially when the words touch upon the favourite pursuits and passions of a people.

There is, however, a circumstance which may help to throw some light upon the present question. The scene of the finest pastoral fongs is commonly laid upon the Tweed, or some of its tributary streams: From this it may be inferred, that the authors were natives of the country. Though doubtless, a species of poetry and music flourished, there, long before the 16th century; the pieces now under consideration, cannot be referred to the bolder minstrels. The fragments of their compositions that have been transmitted to us, breathe a rugged spirit, well suited to a people whose trade was arms, and whose love-tales were sometimes connected with family feuds. Had the Southern countries been, at that time, the favourite seat of pastoral poetry and congenial vocal airs, can it be imagined, that Sir Richard Maitland and his daughter, who lived in the

neighbourhood, would not have admitted some of the choicest pieces into their collection? Supposing the taste of the father to have been vitiated by fashion, the sweet touches of nature they contain, would have recommended them to a female mind. Among the many poets of that century, there is none to whom his contemporaries or biographers adjudge the palm of delineating rural manners and rural scenes, as they actually existed in his own age and country. The learned editor of some excerpts * from the Bannatyne collection, makes a very just remark on the golden terge of Dumbair: "That, though rich in allegory and description, the scene might have been laid with as much propriety in Italy as in Scotland, and with more propriety during paganism, than in the 16th century." The only real Doric pieces in that collection are Jock and Jenny †, and the wife of Auchtermuchty, if indeed the last be as old as the year 1568.

In a matter where no light can be had from history or tradition, one would be disposed to conclude, that the sweetest and most beautiful tunes, were at least clothed with new words, after the union of the crowns, when there was no longer any thing to fear from enemies foreign or domestic. The inhabitants of the borders, who had formerly been warriors from choice, and husbandmen from necessity, either quitted the country, or were transformed into real shepherds, easy in their circumstances, and satisfied with their lot. If the rents were much higher than in the feudal times, their profits were much more considerable. Some sparks of the chivalry of their forefathers remained ‡, sufficient to inspire elevation of sentiment, and gallantry towards the fair sex. The familiarity that had long subsisted between the gentry and commons, could not be all at once obliterated.

* Anc. Poem. 1598, p. 227.

† Anc. Poem. 1568, p. 158, 215, and 316.

‡ Troipart Bishop Leflie.

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ed; a circumstance which tended to sweeten rural life, and to level distinctions of rank, whilst their way of life provided health of body, and tranquillity of mind.

In this happy state of innocence, ease, and serenity of temper, the love of poetry and music could hardly fail to maintain its ground, though it might at length assume a form more suited to the circumstances of the country. The minstrels, whose metrical tales used once to rouse the borderers like the trumpet's sound, were now discouraged, and classed with rogues and vagabonds*. Amidst those Arcadian vales, one or more original geniuses might arise, either together or in succession, who were destined to give a new turn to the taste of their countrymen. They would have the good sense to see, that the events and pursuits which chequer private life, were the fittest subjects for popular poetry. Love, which had formerly held a divided sway with glory and ambition, became now the master passion of the soul. To pourtray in lively and delicate colours, though with a halcy hand, the hopes and fears, which by turns agitated the breast of the amorous swain, afforded ample scope to the rural poet. Some love songs, of which Tibullus himself needed not have been ashamed, might be composed, by an unlettered, uneducated shepherd. At least, if the character be assumed, the author speaks the language of pure nature, which is not easily counterfeited. The images and allusions, are not purloined from ancient or modern classics, but taken from real life, and well-known scenes. With unaffected tenderness and truth, topics are urged, most likely to soften the heart of a cruel and coy mistress, and to promote a happy union. Even in such as are of a melancholy cast, a ray of hope breaks through, and dispels that deep and settled gloom, which marks the sweetest of the Highland vocal airs.

* 1579, c. 74.

Some of the more lively and droll songs, may perhaps appear to the present generation coarse and indelicate. Such, however, was the very style, in which a simple sequestered people, strangers to artificial rules of breeding, behaved in their hours of gaiety, and exuberant mirth. They are still faithful landscapes of the manners and oeconomics of our old fashioned sheep-farmers. In them, it must be confessed, some objects are brought into open view, which a more artful painter would have thrown into shade.

As these heaven-born poets regarded their talents for versification as an amusement, not as a profession, they could not be stimulated to exert themselves by the hopes of gain, or literary fame; and therefore, their effusions being commonly suggested by circumstances, had seldom occasion to exceed the bounds of a love song, or a ballad of humour or satire; for the love and hatred of the tuneful tribe is ever in extremes. These were the compositions most likely to please the small circle of their friends and admirers, whose applause they wished to obtain. As their works were carefully treasured up in the memory of their neighbours, they never thought of printing, and seldom of committing any thing to writing. Yet, now and then, strangers of taste, who were occasionally in the country, might take copies. Being neither known to the learned, nor patronised by the great, they were allowed to live and die in quiet and obscurity. And hence, by a strange fatality, their story, and at length, their very names, were totally forgotten, at the very time when their songs were universally esteemed.

Whether this conjecture be well or ill founded, the moment that a proper model for pastoral songs was exhibited, there would be no want of imitators. To succeed in this species of composition, soundness of judgment, and sensibility of heart were certainly more requisite, than flights of imagination, or pomp of numbers. Though it is impossible for us to trace its era

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or progress; yet, in some such way, capital changes may have taken place in song writing; and hence, so few of the pieces admired in Queen Mary's time can now be discovered in modern collections. * It is also possible, though exceedingly improbable, that the music may have remained nearly the same, whilst the names and words of the tunes were entirely new modelled.

In this situation, matters seem to have stood, when Allan Ramsay began his poetical course. Of the dawns and progression of his genius, very little is known, there not being, I imagine, any life of him published. As he had talents for pastoral poetry that were never surpassed in any age or country, so he had considerable merit as an editor of ancient pieces in that way. Besides the *Evergreen*, taken chiefly from the Baunatyne manuscript, he published a well-known collection of songs. From what sources he procured them, whether from manuscripts or books not generally known, or from the memory of the aged, may perhaps be explained by some persons still alive, who are well acquainted with the story of our Scottish Theocritus. Had it not been for the seasonable interposition of him and his friends, a number of old songs would soon have perished irrecoverably: But, spite of all their industry, pieces of unquestioned merit, and considerable antiquity, might elude their search, and lie concealed in a remote district, or a single family, till chance threw some stranger in the way, who took care to make them public.

If in the *Evergreen*, he rashly attempted to improve some of his originals, in all probability he used still greater freedoms with the songs and ballads, not a few of which had been transmitted from one generation to

* In the voluminous collection of ballads, begun by Mr. Selden, and finished by Mr. Pepys, are several of last century †, to Scottish tunes. Though these are still known and admired, not a word is said of the names or modes of the authors, or of the time when they flourished.

† Pinkerton's ancient poems, volume 2d p. 467

another by tradition. What polish or variations, he, or his fellow-editors, thought proper to give these pieces, cannot be known, till manuscripts older than the present century shall be produced. To a good many tunes, which either had no words, or only ludicrous fragments, he made verses, worthy of the sweet melodies which they accompanied: worthy indeed of a poet of the golden age. They are perfectly intelligible to every rustic, yet justly admired by persons of refined taste, as the genuine offspring of the pastoral muse. The numbers are easy and flowing, though just and natural, expressed with a tenderness and simplicity that touch the heart. With great judgement, he left the old songs, *at least*, their original garb; but in those that are printed among his works, he appears to have aimed at dressing them up in an English idiom, the chief Scotticisms being the sounds of the vowels and the softening of certain consonants. But that signified little to the persons that were to sing them, as they could not help giving them a provincial cast. In some respects, he had peculiar advantages: A song in the dialect of Cumberland or Somersetshire could hardly be popular in England, because it was never spoken by people of fashion; whereas, in the days of Allan Ramsay, every Scotchman, from the peer to the shepherd, spoke a truly Doric language. It is true, the English moralists and poets were by that time universally read by every person of condition, and considered as standards for polite writing. But as national attachments and dislikes were still strong, the busy, the learned and the gay, continued to express themselves as their fathers had done; and that with an elegance and force, of which the young part of your readers (whose prejudices are all English), cannot have a just notion. I am old enough to have conversed with Mr. Spittal of Leuchat, a scholar and man of fashion, who survived all the members of the Union Parliament in which he had sat. His pronunciation and phraseology differed as

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much from the Scotch commonly spoken, as the language of St. James's from that of Thames Street. Had we retained a court and parliament of our own, the tongues of the two sister-kingdoms would indeed have differed like the Castilian and Portuguese; but each would have had its own classics, not in a *single* branch, but in the whole circle of polite literature.

As the company and conversation of Allan Ramsay were greatly courted by men of wit and fashion of his day, so several of them, by his persuasion, attempted to write poetry in his manner. Persons, too lazy or too dissipated to think of compositions that required much exertion, succeeded very happily in making tender sonnets to favourite ladies, in compliment to their mistresses*; and, as became their assumed character, they easily caught the language of impassioned shepherds.

I shall conclude with some queries.

1. What is the oldest book of Low-land vocal airs in *Scots*, either in public or private collections?—Some of their names are doubtless ancient. We have a tradition, that the 2d bishop Chisholm of Dunblane used to say, "Was he to be hanged, nothing would soothe his mind so much by the way, as to hear the tune *Clout the Cauldron* played."

2. Did not Oswald the musician make a new model of a number of tunes?

3. What is the most ancient manuscript or printed book, in which the songs that carry intrinsic marks of antiquity are inserted?—From the well-known accuracy of the gentleman who supplied Dr. Piercy with some beautiful ones †, I suspect they had never appeared in print till Allan Ramsay's time.

* I shall mention one instance: Above sixty years ago, Mr. Robert Crawford, eldest brother of the late Auchinames, wrote the modern song of Tweedside. Of the old one, my informer could only recollect a few words: "I carried my noddle so high."

† Reliques of Ancient Poetry.

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4. How many of the tunes connected with indecent or ludicrous words appear, from their structure, to to have been originally church anthems?

5. In the book called "Ane compendious boke of *Godlie Sangs*," is it possible to discover any thing like these now known among the ones "written to the tunes of *prophane* ballads common in 1597?" A specimen of these was printed at Edinburgh in 1765.

6. In whose hands are the manuscripts of Allan Ramsay, and Thomson the publisher of the *Orpheus Caledonius*? I am,

March }
1791. }

Sir,
Yours, &c.
J. RUNCOLE.

To the Editor.

SIR,

I AM a man of genius, who, like many others of the same class, am sometimes in want of a little cash. It is possible, sir, you may be sometimes in need of a little of my assistance in my technical capacity; and as I shall at all times be glad of your assistance in supplying my deficiencies, we may, if you please, establish a correspondence that may prove advantageous to us both. With that view, I make offer of my services whenever you please to call for them.

My genius, sir, is not confined to any particular line: it takes in the whole bounds of nature. I have already written, with the highest applause, on history, law, physic, agriculture, and the military art: but my *forte* is poetry and the Belles Lettres. If you wish for my assistance in that line, I am at your service. Do you delight in the elegiac? here is a small specimen of my performance in that line.

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1791.

TIM. HAIRBRAIN'S VERSES.

211

Breathe soft ye breezes, gently breathe,
And scent with balmy sweets the gale ;
Suspend, sweet Philomel, thy strain,
And listen to my tender tale.—

But I must not give you the tale, till I receive *you*
know what.

If the pastoral strain will please you better, I am
here also ready at a call.

When young, I was cheerful and gay,
My spirits were lively and free ;
I studied not what I should say,
Nor lov'd any but those that lov'd me.

But now I am pensive and pale,
My mind is distracted with care ;
Nyls heeds not my pitiful tale,
And I die of chagrin and despair.

If you wish that your miscellany should become a
favourite among the ladies, by furnishing them at times
with some bonny words to suit a plain Scottish air, you
shall not want this neither.

" Whar hae ye been sae very lang, my young and gallant Patie ?

" Whar hae ye been sae very lang, unmindfu' o' your Katie ?"

I've been in France, I've been in Spain,
I've been lang toft upon the main ;
But now I am return'd again,
Wi' heart fu' leel, and mind fu' fain,
To wed my bonie Katie.

Now tell me quick, and tell me true, whar is my bonie Katie ?

Is she still kind, is she still true, to her ain constant Patie ?—

What means that tear ?—What ails my Kate ?

Whar is she ? Speak !— " Oh ! cruel fate,

" Now to send hame the faithfu' Pate,

" When it, I fear, is too t oo late,

" Ever to wed his Katie !"

But I manny tell you the rest of it, till you and I agree.
You are a grave man, Sir, as I am told I can be
sometimes so myself ; the following inscription may
perhaps suit your taste.

Stranger, approach with reverence due,
This hallow'd shrine, which holds the dear remains
Of what on earth was deemed once most lovely.
Dare not to pluck that rose which blushes sweet,

D d 2

An emblem pure of that seraphic innocence
Which glow'd upon the virgin cheek of my Maria.
Oh! if ever wedded love inspir'd thy bosom
With th' expansive glow which answers to
A husband's sacred name, here pause, and drop
A silent tear for him, whose only consolation, now,
Is to rear up those lovely plants thou seest,
In which the much delighted, and to twine
The flexile branches of that sacred bow'r,
Which her own hand first planted. But if guilt
Assails, or foul pollution stains thy soul, retire;
For here sweet innocence alone, and peaceful purity,
Are welcome guests. If such thou art indeed,
Securely enter this sequestered shade:
Angels shall guard thee from all thoughts of ill,
And harmonise thy soul to peace and love.

To own a truth however, these are not the strains
on which I like to dwell. I shall next present you, if
you please, with a touch of the heroic.

O for a muse, a muse of thunder!
To fill th' astonish'd world with wonder;
While I recount the actions dire,
Of Russians breathing blood and fire
Within th' ill-fated Simails walls!—
O! who can paint the bloody halls!
The sacred altars stain'd with gore!
The virgins shrieks!—Russian!—no more
From this dread hour expect to find,
A single friend 'mong all mankind:
Thy butcher-arm shall here be laid,
And in the dust shall soon thy guilty head be laid †.

But Lyric measure is my chief delight; that sweetly
varied measure, in which the poet can display, unfet-
tered by forms, and uncramp'd by trammels, the un-
bounded force of his genius. In which he can make,

The clarion shrill,
Sound at his will;
Make thunders roll,
That shake the pole,

And rend the welkin wild, with loud affray:—

† By the last accounts from Ismail, we are informed, that upwards of
THIRTY THOUSANDS of Turkish men, women, and children, were but-
chered at the sack of that small place by the Russian army, command-
ed by Potemkin.

April 13

1791.

TIM. HAIRDRAIN'S VERSES.

213

Or, in number trim and gay,
Sing the charms of blooming May :
Or in notes solemn and dull,
To sweet repose the languid spirits lull (a).

On a bed of roses,
See the nymph reposes !
Stop the flute ;
Be nature mute ;
Or in a dying, dying fall (b).
Sink all to rest, men, women, children, brutes, and all.

Hark ! I hear the din of battle ;
Trumpets found, and drums do rattle (c) :
Horses neigh,
Asses bray ;
The wide mouth'd cannon loudly roar ;
Whole ranks are steep'd in blood and gore. —
Heard you that groan ?
'Tis nature's self that makes her moan.

Dismal cries
Rend the skies ;
Piteous sighs
Spontaneous rise ;
Alas ! he dies, he dies ; the mighty hero dies (d) !
" In broken troops, trembling, the fear'd horses trot ;"
In oceans of blood mangled carcases float (e) :
While pale with fear,
Bellona in the rear,
The infantry in sad disorder fly,
And in whole ranks, beneath the victor's sword, inglorious die.

You, Mr. Editor, who are no doubt acquainted with the finest passages in the finest of our poets, will have no need to be told that I have here had in my eye the inimitable beauties of our British Homer, in that most sublime of all his compositions, the Ode on St. Cecilia's day, which happily unites in itself all kinds of beauties and varieties of movements, that can surprise, and consequently delight the mind. To *you*, it would have been unnecessary to point out the parallel passages in that divine poem ; but as all your readers may not have it at their finger-ends, I have placed some of them at the bottom of the page. Nothing perhaps was ever written,

that can exceed the beauty of that fine movement in the second verse quoted below.

Now louder, and yet louder rise,
And fill with spreading sounds the skies.
Exulting in triumph, now swell the bold notes,
In broken air, trembling, the wild music floats.

The transition is indeed so new, and the idea of the notes trembling in the air, as they float, is so exquisitely fine, that it is impossible ever to admire it too much. I must own myself here greatly outdone, by acknowledging that the parallel passage in my verses is infinitely less wonderful than the sublime copy I have here endeavoured to follow. I would here give you some specimens of my talents for criticism: But as you protest against long pieces, I shall reserve these for a future occasion, if you shall think proper to call forth the superlative talents of

TIMOTHY HAIRBRAIN *.

*From my Lodgings, No. 1.
Wind-Mill Street, next
door to the Balcon.*

* If Mr. Hairbrain can be sure of preserving a due degree of ballast in his great excursions, we have no objection to accept of his services occasionally.

Parallel passages referred to above.

- (a) In a sadly pleasing strain,
Let the warbling flute complain;
Let the loud trumpet sound,
Till the roofs all around,
The shrill echoes resound.
While in more lengthened notes and slow,
The deep majestic solemn organs blow.

POPE'S Ode on St. Cecilia.

- (b) Till, by degrees remote and small,
The strains decay,
And melt away,
In a dying, dying fall.

Id.

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BY HAIRBRAIN *.

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1791.

TIM. HAIRBRAIN'S VERSES.

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(c) Hark! the numbers soft and clear,
Gently steal upon the ear,
Now louder, and yet louder rise;
And fill with spreading sounds the skies.

lb.

(d) Dreadful gleams,
Difinal screams,
Fires that glow,
Shrieks of woe,
Sullen moans,
Hollow groans,
And cries of tortur'd ghosts!

But soon, too soon; the lover turns his eyes;
Again she falls, again she sighs, she dies!

And again,

lb.

All alone,
Unheard, unknown,
He makes his moan;
And calls her ghost.

For ever,—ever,—ever, lost!

Now with furies surrounded,

Despairing, confounded,

He trembles, he glows,

Amidst Rhodope's snows;

See wild as the winds, o'er the desert he flies,

Hark! Hæmus resounds with the Bacchanal's cries.

Ah! see, he dies!

lb.

(e) Exulting in triumph, now swell the bold notes,
In broken air trembling, the wild music floats;

lb.

*Inquiries concerning useful Productions that may be
obtained from Vegetables.*

BOTANISTS have for many years past been busied in
ransacking the earth in quest of new plants. The
number of these that have been described is very great;
but of that immense number, few have had their qua-
lities, whether hurtful or beneficial to man, ascertained.
In the science of classification and nomenclature, our

progress has been astonishing within the present century; it is now time, that we should think of applying that science to some use. After we are enabled to identify the plant with sufficient precision, we are in a condition to make observations and experiments upon it; to ascertain its qualities; and acquire a knowledge of its culture, and the uses to which it may be applied in manufactures or in arts.

Linnaeus began this system of investigation, and his disciples have done something in the same walk; but of late, it would seem, that their progress has been suspended: Nor do I know that any person, unless it be Dr. Anderson of Madras alone, has applied to this interesting department of natural history with any degree of ardour. He, as a private individual, has done much, and has awakened a spirit of inquiry in India, which may be attended with the happiest effects, if duly seconded by others. As far as the feeble influence of the editor of this humble miscellany can go, it shall be exerted, in pointing out to the attention of the public, such objects in nature as appear to be possessed of valuable qualities, with a view to have these qualities fully ascertained, and their value appreciated.

Many plants are known to afford juices of powerful influence to the human frame, whether as food or poison, or as medicines. Savages know how to extract from these native plants, juices which produce the most deleterious effects, and employ them either for the purposes of self-defence, or for destroying the animals on which they are to feed. All books of travels abound in instances of that sort; yet how few of these powerful vegetable productions are known to Europeans? We are too proud to take a lesson from people whom we affect to despise; yet, in spite of that pride, we have been forced to borrow from them in some cases; and our *materia medica* has derived from this source, the most powerful vegetable medicines it possesses. *Ipica-cuana*, *opium*, *sarsaparilla*, and *the bark*, are striking

1791. April 13,

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examples of this ; and many others might be added to the list.

Among the useful vegetable productions that we have drawn from the same source, is the Coutchouc, which I had so lately occasion to mention. Many other plants, which are natives of those regions that produce it, and which have hitherto been entirely neglected, afford juices that might be employed for useful purposes. Those plants which afford, upon incision, milky juices, seem particularly to deserve the notice of the attentive economist. It is from plants of this class that the inhabitants of Japan and China obtain those fine varnishes which have been so long the pride of Asia, and the admiration of Europe: It is a plant of this class that affords the elastic gum ; and we are assured that many other plants afford juices of the same sort, which, when treated in the same manner with the juice of the *Hevea Guianensis*, afford products, which, though different from Coutchouc, promise to be of great utility in regard to other particulars.

M. de la Condamine communicated to the Royal Academy of Paris, in the year 1751, a memoir which he received from M. Fresneau, a French engineer who had lived fourteen years in Cayenne. That gentleman's curiosity was so much excited on seeing the Coutchouc which the Indians possessed, as to induce him to make enquiries concerning the plant that produced it. He went himself to the woods, saw the juice of the tree extracted, and reduced to its solid state in the manner before described. The Indians seeing him interested about this process, pointed out several other trees that afforded the same kind of milky juice, but which, when hardened, produced coryacious substances of various qualities. He made experiments on these juices, communicated the result of them to M. de la Condamine, and described the trees that produced them. This interesting memoir has been published forty years, and it does not appear that ever a single experi-

ment or inquiry has been since made by any European concerning these substances. The following are the principal facts contained in that memoir.

Mr. Fresnau found that some of these juices were too fluid, and some of them too oily to admit of being easily inspissated by themselves; but that by being mixed with each other in different proportions, he found it could often be effected, though it could not be done with them separately. The juice of the wild fig, and a tree he calls *Mapa*, mixed in equal portions, yielded, in this way, a kind of pliable unelastic substance †, resembling leather.

The *Mapa* tree Mr. Fresnau has not particularly described, because he says it is found in such abundance, in the woods of Para, that it is universally known by the public; only he says it is a very large and tall tree, having but few branches. Its bark is smooth, and its leaf resembles the lime-tree of Holland in form, but is a good deal larger.

The wild fig, which the Portuguese call *granda comacai*, is a tree, having a very thick stem, with large spreading crooked branches, extending to a great distance all around. He found some of these trees, whose stem, though only eighteen feet high, measured twenty-four feet in circumference: its bark is rough, and its leaves heart shaped, large and thick. They measure about six inches in length, and three in breadth: its fruit resembles certain round European figs, but it is harder: its skin is smooth, and in the inside are many small seeds. When ripe, it falls from the tree in such quantities with the first puff of wind, that the earth is entirely covered with it for a considerable distance all around. In walking among these figs, they break with a considerable

† The elasticity here alluded to, is that kind of it which couteouch possesses. The term *elastic* thus applied, seems to be improper, but has been adopted for want of a proper word. *Expansile* would perhaps have been better. The substance here alluded to does not admit of being extended by stretching.

noise, and adhere to the feet by means of a glutinous juice they contain, similar to that obtained from the bark of the tree.

Mr. Fresnau observed also, that the juice of this kind of fig-tree, united still more readily with the juice of a certain kind of pear tree, than with that of the *Mapa*. From a mixture of this kind of pear tree, which the Portuguese name *Couma*, with three parts of that of the *Comacai*, or wild fig, he obtained a kind of leather still more perfect than that which resulted from a mixture of equal parts of the juice of the fig-tree and the *mapa*.

Mr. Fresnau discovered another tree, whose milky juice thickened by itself into a substance that greatly resembled the elastic gum. This tree is known in *Para*, by the name of *Pao Camprido*, which is to say in Portuguese, *Long Wood*. It is, in fact, a tree whose stem raises to a great height and proportionable thickness, without branches, having a beautiful round top, and small roots. It abounds in a milky juice, which is said to be corrosive, like many other milky juices, and dangerous to the eyes, if it drops upon them. Its leaf is pointed at both ends, smooth above and rough below, of a clear shining green, approaching to yellow: Its fruit is of the length and size of the little finger, which becomes yellow when ripe: Its kernel is long and hard: The fruit is of a mild agreeable taste, and wholesome.

To the Editor of the Bee.

On the great Expence of recovering small Debts in Scotland.

SIR,

YOUR observations on the laws respecting imprisonment for debt, and your plan for the alteration of the present system of the bankrupt law, are, in general, very judicious; and, if adopted, must be of great advantage to society. But I think there is one thing that you have omitted, which is, that we, Scotchmen, ought to be upon the same footing with our neighbours in England, with respect to imprisonment for small debts, by which the lower ranks would be most materially benefited; for there, a man cannot be arrested for a sum under twenty pounds*: But here, one may be imprisoned for any debt, however small. I have known many a caption raised for sums under twenty shillings; and was the record of the signet office examined, the bulk of them would be found to be for sums under 5 l. †. This is truly a nuisance, and a nuisance of the most oppressive kind; for, independent of the imprisonment, the expence attending this mode of diligence, is most intolerable upon the lower class

* *Quer.* Is this really so? If it be, how happens it that the humane society, by the accounts published every year, discharge a number of debtors from prison, for a sum which does not, on an average, much exceed forty shillings each? *Edit.*

† The editor will be much obliged to any person who has occasion to consult these records, to jett down such facts as appear interesting on this subject, and transmit them to him. He recollects having once seen a bill that was sent from a distant part of the country, for raising a horning and caption upon it. The sum was only four shillings Sterling. *Edit.*

Debts. April 13,

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1791. EXPENCE OF RECOVERING SMALL DEBTS. 221

of people, who are the objects of it; and whether it comes out of the pocket of the debtor or creditor, it is of no consequence in this view: It is equally oppressive on the one, as on the other: It comes, however, always out of the pocket of the debtor, if he has funds.

I happen to have by me three accounts for diligence of this sort, done against one man, at the instance of three different persons, which were carried on by the same agent, and precisely at the same time, which will shew this in a more striking point of view, than any thing I can say on the subject.

The Accounts are as follow:

The first was for payment of 3 l. 18 s. upon a bill.

Protesting and registering bill,	-	L. 0	3	9
Officer for going to dwelling places, and charging debtors, copies and execution,	-	0	4	6
Horning,	-	0	7	0
Charging and copies	-	0	14	0
Denouncing and registering,	-	0	2	4
Caption,	-	0	5	0
Messenger intimating ditto	-	0	5	0
Raising diligence, postages, &c.	-	0	3	6
Messenger going to in order to execute caption against who engaged another person should settle it; and in regard that person did not settle it, again going to to apprehend for payment, but prevented by his being from home. At same time, intimate messenger's intention to his wife;				

Carried over — L. 2 5 1

222 EXTENCE OF RECOVERING SMALL DEBTS. April 13.

Brought forward — L. 2 5 1
likewise, intimating to
if the debt was not settled in a week,
he would be committed, who engaged
to pay it within a fortnight from that
date, — — 1 11 6

Expences without litigation, — L. 3 16 7

Original debt, — — L. 3 18 0

Account second, for a debt of 4 l. 4 s.

Protesting and registrating bill, — L. 0 3 10

Officer charging, — — 0 3 6

Horning, — — 0 6 8

Messenger executing, and copies, — 0 12 0

Denouncing and registration, — 0 2 4

Caption, — — 0 5 0

Messenger thrice going to in-
intimating and endeavouring to appre-
hend, but always
prevented by his being from home, 1 2 6

Messenger going again to
with witnesses, and charging on horn-
ing, for the purpose of poinding; at
same time, intimating the caption
would be likewise executed, witnesses,
wages, &c. — — 0 15 0

Raising diligence, postages, &c. — — 0 5 0

L. 3 15 10½

The third account was for recovery of a debt of
6 l. 5 s.

Protesting and registrating bill, — L. 0 3 10

Officer charging and copies, — 0 3 6

Carried over — L. 0 7 4

DEBTS. April 13.

L. 2 5 1

1 11 6

L. 3 16 7

L. 3 18 0

1. 4 s.

L. 0 3 10
0 3 6
0 6 8
0 12 0
0 2 4
0 5 0

1 2 6

0 15 0
0 5 0

L. 3 15 10 1/2

of a debt of

L. 0 3 10
0 3 6

L. 0 7 4

1791. EXPENCE OF RECOVERING SMALL DEBTS. 223

Brought forward	—	L. 0 7 4
Horning,	—	0 6 8
Messenger charging at dwelling, and copies,	—	0 12 0
Denouncing and registering caption,	—	0 2 4
Caption,	—	0 5 0
Messenger going to , and intimating caption to debtors,	—	0 7 6
Messenger, with witnesses, going to and of new charging on horning, for the purpose of poinding, &c. as in the former account,	—	0 15 0
Raising diligence, poitages, &c.	—	0 5 0
		L. 3 0 10.

Hence, for the recovery of 14 l. 7 s. there was an expence incurred of no less than 10 l. 13 s. 4 1/2 d. *

From this specimen of the business, I presume you will agree with me, that it is a subject worthy of the attention of the legislature. Indeed the mode of diligence by horning and caption for all small debts ought to be laid aside as useless, unless where it is necessary to attach the goods of a person in a different county from whence the decree was originally obtained; though even this does not seem to be necessary; for it would answer the same purpose, was the sheriff of that county to grant his warrant in supplement of the first decree; and which, for a trifling fee to the clerk, should pass as a matter of course.

* And had the sums in the bills been ten shillings each, the expences, in the same circumstances, could not have been less. From this scheme it is easy to see, that a person, who, from accidental losses has been thrown into embarrassments that might be got over, may be effectually ruined by a rich man who has a pique at him. He has only to buy up a few small bills due by him, and come upon him for payment of them all at once. Perhaps, if the matter were strictly inquired into, it would be found, that three-fourths of the small bankruptcies that take place are occasioned by expences of this sort. *Edit.*

224 EXPENCE OF RECOVERING SMALL DEBTS. April 13.

If you think these observations worth inserting in
your miscellany, your publishing them will oblige,
2d March } Sir, your most humble servant,
1791. } AMICUS.

*Miscellaneous Remarks on the Lapwing Moles, Rooks,
Sparrows, &c.*

SIR,

PROBABLY your correspondent on the mole and the worm never had a tame lapwing in his garden. If he gets one, he will see that its mode of procuring food is by tapping the ground with one foot, which makes the worms rise, on the same principle as shaking a spade or a stick in the ground. I readily admit the nuisance of moles in new sown crops or in mowing ground; but I have been told of a man, who is reckoned a good farmer in Flanders, who introduces moles purposely into his pasture grounds; and had I a large tract of such ground, I should not hesitate to follow his example; for I am persuaded that the increasing evil we experience here of grubs and wireworms is in some degree owing to the destruction of moles.

I have heard the turning swine on to the rabbit warrens recommended as a prevention of the swarms of chaffers which proceed from the grubs. Might not moles be more effectual? Rooks have, I believe, been encouraged where, from their destruction, this evil has been found to increase; and I think the sparrows have their utility to balance the mischief they do. I am willing to admit, that one of these birds will eat four times its own weight of corn in a day; the more voracious they are proved, the better for my argument in their favour, as they must subsist upon other food a much larger portion of the year than that which they can find corn in; and it is not probable their appetites are less in the breeding season than any other; and in

BEETS. April 13.
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AMICUS.

Moles, Rooks,

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1791.

MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS.

225

that time is the flight of the small crown beetles (called here chovies), which make such destruction of most flowers and fruits, particularly roses and apples. A sparrow killed at that season will be found to feed wholly upon them; which may account for the heat of their blood, and point out some use for these flies for medicinal purposes.

I am, &c.

M. M.

Count Windischgratz's Problem.

SIR,

YOUR correspondent, who would proscribe poetry, and substitute in place thereof plans for reformation of the laws, appears to consider poetry and any such plan as incompatible. If he had only glanced at Lord Bollingbroke's letters on the study and use of history, he would have found that to be an eminent lawyer, it is necessary "to climb the vantage grounds of science;—to pry into the secret recesses of the human heart." What influence poetry has on manners, may be gathered from the saying of one who had other notions of mankind than your correspondent: "Let me make their ballads, and I care not who make their laws." Lycurgus conduced to render the Spartans warlike, by the introduction of Homer amongst them. Without much general learning, and a taste for belles lettres, it is impossible Sir William Blackstone could have made his commentary on the law of England so useful and entertaining. He is known to have wrote some of the poems in Dodley's collection: he also wrote annotations on Shakespeare. Indeed, from the degree of genius and invention requisite to make a poem, one would more readily expect any material improvement on the laws, than from a painful plodder.

Vol. II.

†

F f

Having said so much in defence of poetry, I will now submit a few hints which occurred to me on reading Count de Windischgratz's problem, in the first volume of Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and which, though not amounting to a solution thereof, may shew that something might be done to render the forms of obligations, securities, and other deeds, more simple, secure, and intelligible to the generality of mankind.

What I would propose is as follows :

1. *The bond for borrowed money.*—1. To acknowledge the money being due, or then received. 2. Obligation to pay it, with legal interest. 3. The penalty somewhat higher in every country than the expence of inflicting payment; the creditor to be entitled, as by law at present, to so much of it as he has *bona fide* laid out. 4. A clause of registration; and 5. Of subscription. To be written by notaries public only, as most likely to have sufficient skill. To be recorded in a particular time after date. An extract (or exemplification) to be equal to a decret condemnatory after litiscontestation of the court in the books whereof it is registered; and no compensation admitted, except on a deed equally liquid and indisputable.

2. *Dispositions of lands,*—to abolish holdings in Scotland, and conveyances by *lease* and *release*, and *fine* and *recovery* in England, and to make simple dispositions in terms as plain and short as those of moveables, without procuratory or precept, or other vestige of the feudal system, or reference to the statute for transferring uses into possession; to be written by notaries public only, who should, like other public officers, be stationary, and to be registered in 6 days; the registration to supply the place of infestment*. An index of the register printed and published quarterly, containing the

* This idea of a conveyance registered, being at some future period, equal to infestment on it, is somewhere hinted at by Lord Kaimes.

M. April 13.

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Lord Kaima.

1791. COUNT WINDISCHGRATZ'S PROBLEM. 227

names of the parties and lands; and copies of the indexes sent to these notaries when published, in the same manner as the minute book in the court of session is at present sent to the agents or solicitors before that court; by which rights might be made with safety and clearness, and the value enhanced, as it is well known lands are always highest where registers are kept.

3. *Mortgages*; or securities upon land for money,—to be by bond and disposition, with power to sell to the amount of the debt, and reasonable expences *bona fide* laid out, on previous intimation such a length of time prior to the sale as may be agreed on in the security:—To be registered, and indexes published and transmitted to each notary public, as above.

4. *Assignations* and other transfers, in common form, unless in so far as altered, in regard to lands, by the foregoing, and to be, in like manner, registered, published and transmitted.

5. *Extinctions* of *mortgages*, and other deeds, to be by simple *discharges* *renunciations*; and these to be registered, and indexes published and transmitted as in mortgages.

These registers to be distinct from each other; and deeds not duly registered in the time to be fixed on, not to be the foundation of summary execution, and to be held collusive in questions with third parties.

These hints are only thrown out as general ideas which could easily be extended to every other case; to get into the forms at length, would exceed the bounds of an essay for a periodical publication.

Whether ever a satisfactory discovery be made or not, Count de Windischgratz must appear the friend of the human race, in making so laudable a proposal as that offered by him, in the hopes of making legal deeds simple and intelligible, and to admit of as little room for doubt as in mathematics.

K. February 16. }
1791.

A——N.

F f 2

To the Editor of the Bee.

SIR,

ALTHOUGH you stimulate the poet of the age by the offer of a prize medal, I am glad to find that poetical pieces of an older date than his may sometimes have a place in your miscellany. The following lines are said to have been written in the days of Edward IV. of England, and sent with a present of a white rose, by a gentleman of the house of York to a lady of the house of Lancaster; but I give them from memory, without even knowing where I found them.

If this fair flower offend thy sight,
It in thy bosom wear;
'Twill blush to be outdone in white,
And grow Lancastrian there.

Subjoined is another small piece, taken, I think, twenty years ago, from some magazine of the day, but here set down also from memory.

The Play Ticket.

I gave, it was but t'other day,
My Chloe a ticket to the play;
'Tis love such tricks imparts:
When, holding up the card to me,
She, smiling, said, your emblem see;
And shew'd the knave of hearts.

Amaz'd, I cried, what means my Fair:
A knave will lie, will steal, will swear;
I pray your words define.
When, archly, she,—nay, never start;
He's sure a knave who steals a heart;
And you have stol'n m—nine.

These may be thought worthy of a corner, though not so beautiful as Lord Egremont's enchanting verses.

Yours, &c.
A. B.

April 13.

1761

NIGHT THOUGHTS.

229

Night Thoughts,—A Fragment.

Now sable night extends her reign,
With powerful universal sway,
Thro' nature's wide domain.
All, tributary homage to her empire pay.
Ah! now, my soul! improve the silent hour;
And led by still reflection's power,
Think the long night of death will also come,
And this frail body soon shall sink into the tomb!

Dread ghastly monarch! must all bend
To thy relentless stern decree?
All ages, ranks, attend
To crowd the gloomy mansions rul'd by thee?
Must I too tread the dismal dreary way,
And in thy unknown regions stray;
Quit the terrestrial scenes I now pursue,
And bid to earth, to friends, to life, a long adieu?

Yes, all must die of mortal race,
As transient flower that decks the field;
But, to th' eternal praise
Of God, the soul does ne'er its being yield,
Form'd for eternity, an awful thought!
(And are there any heed it not?)
No middle state 'tis ever deem'd to know,
But bliss unspeakable, or everlasting woe.

How foolish then, how blind is man!
The brittle creature of a day;
His life a fleeting span,
And like a vapour vanishing away:
Yet onward still he flies with mad career,
Nor once reflects his end is near!
Nor thinks the high commission may be given
That hurls him to the dark abyss, or wafts him up to heaven!

SCOTIANA.

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not so beautiful

Yours, &c.

A. B.

On the death of Edwin the comedian.

Edwin died and went to hell ;
 But old Lucifer knew too well
 The pleasure on earth he had given.
 Long at the gates he was a dun,
 And there treated so much fun,
 That he was sent for up to heaven.

J. D * * * *.

Sonnet, from Werter.

No, no, my friend, my studious days are o'er ;
 I pray thee, therefore, send no books to me.
 I will by pedants be perplex'd no more ;
 No more inflam'd, no more exhorted be.

Such formal fools have rul'd my mind too long ;
 But I will henceforth all their art defy :
 I ask no study but some soothing song ;
 And that my Homer richly can supply.

And sure this heart of mine no aid requires,
 Amusement ample for itself to find ;
 This wild capricious heart, whose keen desires
 Are more inconstant than the winter's wind ;
 And yet this heart despotic rules me still,
 And, like some forward child, has all its will.

A. T

Dr. Aldridge's five Reasons for drinking.

Good wine ; a friend ; or, being dry ;
 Or, — lest we should be 'bye and bye ;
 Or ————— any other reason why.

It is among the popular tales and ballads of an unlettered people, that we can obtain any idea of their private life, and the modes of thinking that prevailed at the time these were composed. It is from this source alone, that we can obtain any knowledge of the progress of art, and the advances that science had made at any particular period; these therefore, ought to be preserved, as precious remains of antiquity; they furnish amusement as well as instruction; the manners they represent are sometimes savage, and what we now would deem brutal; the language is often gross and indelicate; but in all cases, the human heart is found to be the same, though the manner in which its energies operate are influenced by circumstances. To the historian, the antiquary, the philologist, the moralist, they will furnish interesting materials; and to the novelist they will not be indifferent, as they tend to exhibit human nature in a variety of new, and interesting points of view.

If the tale that follows, or others, shall stand in need of a few explanations; such particulars as appear not likely to be understood, shall be explained in the notes; but these are few, and unimportant.

Walter a tale, written in the twelfth century, translated from the French of Mr. Le Grand.

OTHER minstrels invented songs; for me, I tell tales: Gentlemen, Girls, Clergymen, Laymen, Ladies and Lords, listen, and I will tell you the adventures of a young squire, whom adversity tried for a long time, and whom love at last made happy.

Walter was the eldest son of the Castellan D' Aupais. His father, seeing him grown tall and strong, and wishing to have an opportunity of trying his valour, sent him one day to a tournament, which had been announced in the neighbourhood, near Beauvais. It was for the first time that the young Walter had seen any of these warlike games: he only knew them from hearsay. He had neither been taught to manage a horse, nor to make use of his arms. He presented himself very nobly in the lists: But what was his astonishment, when he found himself in the midst of the crowd, attacked by twenty combatants at once, and when he heard round him, the helmets and shields sounding under their swords, with a greater noise than three hundred hammers would have made by striking the anvil. Pushed thirty times from one end of the lists to the other, he had great difficulty, after receiving several blows, to disengage himself.

As it was now late, and not having eaten any thing all day, he found himself faint from hunger, and was obliged to stop on the road. He went into a tavern, where the new wine had attracted several drinkers, for it was towards all-saints day; and after having made his

horse be put up in the stable, he ordered a very good supper, which whilst he was eating, he said to himself: "Indeed, it must be allowed, it is a very fine invention that of taverns; they receive you kindly, they serve you with alacrity, and pay you much respect, while you have no trouble but to pay."

But that was the main point, and precisely that which our adventurer had forgot. Next day, when he wished to go away, he perceived he had no money; his first motion was to go and hide himself in the stable to weep; but his tears were not the money the landlord wanted; it was necessary to seek some expedient. To leave in pawn his horse or his accoutrements, his self-love would not permit him to think of. Unfortunately he perceived in a corner of the inn, some people playing at dice, and he resolved to go and play with them, in hopes of making them pay his bill. But in a trice, he lost his lance, his armour and his horse; and after a great many injurious words from the landlord, he was obliged to part with the few garments that remained, and was forced to return to Au-pain on foot and in his shirt.

What vexed him chiefly in his adventure, was, not so much his loss, as his humiliation in passing through the city in that beggarly appearance. That he might not expose himself, he rather chose to make a large circuit, and enter the castle by the meadow. But when his father saw him thus equipped, and had learnt of him what was become of his horse, his armour and his clothes, he got into such a rage, that laying hold of a stick, he gave him several blows with it. Walter, though of a mild demeanor, had a haughty, proud soul. He felt in the most sensible manner the indignity of the affront. In fullen indignation he left the hall, with a determined resolution, that they should not see him there again for a long time. His brothers and sisters ran after him in vain to bring him back; their prayers had no effect on him: he would not even accept some of their clothes which they offered him; and after having tenderly embraced them all, he departed.

When the mother saw them return without their brother, she was inconsolable; "What, sire, said she to her husband, do you drive away your beloved son, the heir of your name; you certainly wish to kill me." Thus saying, she fell into a swoon, and only recovered, to cry, in an agony of distress, I have lost him.

All this, as I told you, happened towards All-saints day. Walter, without clothes and without money, was thus exposed to all the rigours of the season, to the snow, the winds and the frost. He endured them however with a stern indifference, running from city to city, eating whatever chance offered him, and sleeping where it pleased God. To name all the countries he traversed, and tell you all the ills he had to suffer, would not be an easy task. It will be sufficient to tell you, that after four entire years of that life so miserable, he arrived at last in a city, whose lord was a very rich man. This gentleman had a daughter named Ogina, who was a real prodigy in point of graces and beauty. You have doubtless heard of Ydoina the mistress of Amadas of Sebilla, whom the brave Berad loved so tenderly; of that Helena who

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turned the heads of the Greeks and Trojans. If Ydoina, Helena and Sebilla had been placed beside Ogina, she would have been preferred.

It chanced, that she was walking in the city, when Walter entered it; and was one of the first objects that struck his eyes. His heart, was captivated for ever. He did not wish to go any farther; he passed three whole months in sighing of love and groaning under his misery, in coming every day to the gate of the castle, and walking in the street where he had first seen the young lady, in hopes that he might see her again. His bad fortune opposed it: He endeavoured then to get himself introduced into the house of that gentleman; and one evening that he met one of his people, he begged him very politely to tell him if there was any vacant place in his master's house. The other having asked him what he could do, Walter answered, that he could serve the gentleman at table, take care of his cellar and his expences, and keep his woods, rivers, and provisions. The servant was very much surprised to hear such a proposal from the mouth of a man, whom, by his dress, he took to be a peasant. He was content, however, with telling him, that his master had already a seneschal and a forester, and proposed to the young man, to enter into his master's service as a plough-boy. That humiliating offer covered Walter with confusion: he could not retain his tears; and casting his eyes sadly on his clothes, Cursed poverty, cried he, it makes one be despised, who, without it, would be respected. The servant, touched with his grief, added: I recollect, that just now there is wanting a centinel for the castle; would that place suit you? I will speak of it to my lord, and to-morrow you may know his answer. Walter, who only wished to have the happiness of being near Orgina, received the offer with gratitude. The affair succeeded; he was accepted; they gave him a horn, and a brass trumpet, to discharge the duties of his office. But they did not leave him long in such an employment; in a few days, his good appearance made him be taken to serve at table.

This was all he could have chosen, if he had been allowed to form a wish. He was going to see every day, and to contemplate freely the beauty which he loved. However, it was this facility that he applauded so much, which, by giving strength to a hopeless passion, caused his misfortune. This is generally the case with love; the wicked boy likes to torment those whom he has been able to subdue; he has no pleasure but in seeing them shed tears.

The young man was become thin and pale. His master seeing him wasting away insensibly, would say to him, sometimes, Walter, what is the matter with you! But Walter took care not to tell him; he was afraid of being turned off immediately. From time to time, a musician of the place, with whom he had formed a friendship, made him also the same question. The young man always answered, that there was something the matter with him he did not like to tell. However, it is so sweet a pleasure to relieve one's heart when it is full, that, pressed one day by the musician, he told him: "I believe you too much my friend, and I think too well of you, to suspect you of being capable of betray-

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"ing me, which would cost me my life. A young lady has entirely berelt me of reason, hence I must confess it to you; and that lady is Ogina the daughter of my lord. You know my folly now, pity me; or rather endeavour to suggest some resource, for I no longer know what to do." "You are not wrong, when you say you are foolish," replied the musician; "there is something in it; for me, I have only one advice to give you, that is, to forget your mistress, and betake yourself to another. I know many pretty ones, who surely would wish no better, than to have for a lover such a fine young man as you." "No, I cannot; and there is my misfortune. I feel very well without your telling me, that I need never flatter myself with being loved by Ogina; but it is not possible for me to live without her; and for some days, that an indisposition deprives me of the happiness of seeing her, I die, yes I die with chagrin. My dear friend, for once more take pity on me; advise me, or it is all over; I must renounce life." These words were pronounced in so touching a tone, that the musician could not help being melted with them. "I wish I possessed the secret which you ask of me," said he, "I would offer it you willingly; but you have a very embarrassing love. I only see one resource, that is, to make your mistress guess it, since you dare not tell it her. Come to my house; I have some amorous airs, which I will teach you. You can easily find an opportunity to sing them to her; and perhaps the recital of your pain will succeed in touching her heart. I do not promise you a sure success; but at any rate, you may try it; the worst will be, to find some more happy means."

The advice pleased Walter; he learnt the songs, and sung them. Alas! he did not know that he had no need of them. Could a passion so strong as his, be long unknown to her who was the object of it? Ogina had conceived an attachment for him; and it was nothing but the violence of that passion, combated by the shame of loving a valet, which had occasioned her malady.

The Sunday following, Walter found a favourable occasion to see her by herself. The parents were at church; Ogina remained alone in the castle. Emboldened by love, he came into her chamber, under the pretext of enquiring after her health; but scarcely had he begun to speak, when his countenance became pale, and his whole body fell a trembling. Ogina, in the most gentle tone, answered, that she suffered a good deal, and desiring the young man to sit down, begged him to relate to her some story that might serve to amuse her for a moment.—"Madam," answered he, "your distress has given me so much chagrin, that in spite of the desire I have to please you, it will be impossible for me to obey you. From that moment, I have lost every thing, joy, and repose. Nor is it your beauty, however perfect it be, which has attached me to you. No, it is the enchanting charms of your character I love. It is your goodness, your gentleness, which makes me feel when they have seen you, that they would give for you their heart's blood, even to the last drop. Ah! young lady, if Walter loses you, he dies."

At these words, sighs choked his voice, and his face was covered with tears; but, terrified and confused at having allowed his secret to be

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scape him, he rose in haste, without waiting for an answer, and escap-
ing as if he had committed a crime, he retired to his chamber, and shut
himself up from the sight of every person.

There, his temerity presented itself to his eyes, under the most frightful
colours. He believed that Ogina would complain of him to her parents;
and then it was all over with him. Every moment he imagined he
heard them open the door in fury, to reproach him with his insolence,
and to chase him with shame from their house. Twenty times did he
intend to save himself before their arrival, and by a timorous flight,
to prevent that dishonour. But hope, which love never suffers to be en-
tirely extinguished, arrested him.—Love, even in the midst of this
tempest, sometimes came to tempt him with a smile. He passed a
part of the day in these mortal struggles. In fine, after dinner, when
the parents were returned to church, resolving to try every thing, he
returned to the fair.

Far from intending to afflict him, that tender lover had heard with
transport the voluntary effusion of his love. She felt only one chagrin,
that of seeing him in the state of servitude. The first word, therefore,
she spoke to him on his return, was, to ask what was his name and his
parentage. "You order it, said he; I will satisfy you, whatever it shall
cost me." He then recounted, with great plainness and sincerity, all
his adventures, from the moment of the tournament, to that in which he
entered the lands of the chevalier her father. "It was then, added
"he, I saw you, and then too commenced my real pains; for all that
"I had before suffered, during four years of misery, was nothing, when
"compared with this severer distress. I wished to live near you, and
"since then, I have reason still more to complain. But I feel that my
"misfortunes shall not continue much longer; and perhaps Walter now
"speaks to you for the last time."

The impression which this discourse made on the heart of Ogina, the
surprise, the grief, and the joy which it excited in her, discomposed her
so much, that she begged Walter to retire. Friend, said she to him,
leave me, I find myself very ill. He went out in despair from the state
which he believed her to be in. If you had seen him at that time, you
could not but have pitied him.

The young lady, on her side, was not less agitated. She passed the
whole night in sighing, and turning herself sometimes on one side, and
sometimes on the other. At last, she rose, and called her chambermaid
to make her bed again; but she does not find herself any better than be-
fore. She makes the head of the bed be put to the foot, the foot to the
head: She lies sometimes on her back, on her side, puts one arm out of
bed, pulls it in again; nothing gives her ease, and her eyes constantly
refuse sleep. "This is love then, cried she: Alas! how they deceive
"us, when they tell us it will be our happiness." When she thinks on
Walter, she grows pale, and blushes alternately. She would have wished
to see him again; then a moment after, she would not wish it; then sits
up on her bed; then lies down and cries: Ah! if Walter has suffered as
much as me, how ought I to pity him?

At last, after a great many tears and sighs, she got up when the day appeared; and although she did not doubt the sincerity of her lover, for greater security she sent secretly to Aupais, an old servant, whose fidelity she could rely on. All that the servant could discover by his inquiries, perfectly agreed with what the young man had said. The Castellan, mortified at the severity he had used towards his son, wept over him in secret every day. In vain had he made him be sought for all over France; the mother had died for grief. When Ogina heard that report, she could scarce refrain in her joy from embracing the messenger. She remained a moment plunged in a profound reverie; but soon recovering herself, she sent the servant to beg her mother to come to her apartment.

When the mother came, she spoke to her thus: "Madam, I have an important secret to tell you; deign to hear me. You have in your service, a man little fitted for that place, the eldest son of the Castellan d'Aupais. It is the love with which I have inspired him, that has introduced him into your house. Within these few days, he has confessed it all to me; and I confess to you in my turn, that I have not been able to avoid loving him, and that I shall never think myself happy till you have given him to me for a husband. Solicit this favour with my father, I beg of you; but conceal from him, that I love Walter."

At his discourse, the mother fell into a terrible rage. She imagined her daughter had committed some criminal weakness, and had only feigned sickness to conceal the consequences of it. The young lady had sworn that she never had spoken to Walter in her life, and that he had never deviated in the smallest degree from that profound respect which a true lover always has for the person he loves; when she also related to her the precautions she had taken not to be deceived with regard to his birth, the lady became calm, and promised to speak to her husband.

The husband knew the Castellan d'Aupais; the match was otherwise suitable. Thus he consented to the marriage; and in the mean time, made Walter his steward, and gave him the keys of the castle. In the new dress he now assumed, the good mien and the natural grace of the young lover appeared with éclat. He was betrothed to the young lady, and sent an express to his father to make him acquainted with his marriage, and to invite him to the wedding. The Castellan, enchanted with the news, went with his other children, and a croud of gentlemen his relations or friends. Walter and he embraced tenderly, and wept with joy. There was a great festival during three days. The fourth day they separated. Walter saw his father depart with regret; but he could not follow him: he was going at last, after so many hardships, to taste the sweet pleasures of love.

Let us say a pater, that God may procure for all those who shall love as Walter did, the pleasure which he long enjoyed in the endearments of a beloved wife, and the enjoyment of affectionate relations.

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Information respecting Arts, &c.

Rearing of silk-worms in Scotland.

SOME years ago, Miss Henrietta Rhodes, near Birmingham, transmitted to the Society of arts in London, an account of some experiments she had made in rearing silk worms; which were conducted with so much judgment and accuracy, as to throw much light on that interesting branch of manufacture. It appeared by these experiments, that the only thing wanting in Great Britain for rearing silk-worms in the greatest perfection, was a sufficient stock of mulberry trees. In this respect, the young lady was subjected to so great inconveniences, that she was forced to try if she could find any other substance, that could be employed as a substitute for the mulberry. Common ice lettuce answered that purpose better than any other. The silk-worm, she found, eat that substance with freedom, and she thinks they may be with safety kept upon that food for better than one half the time they exist, without diminishing the size of the cocoons they produce, or hurting the quality of the silk; provided the mulberry leaf be administered to them during the latter part of the period of their existence.

This paper produced some other observations on the same subject by other persons. Mr. Bertzen, a native of Italy, published a pamphlet on the subject, with a professed intention to inquire, if silk worms could be reared with profit in Britain, and Mr. Peter Norille sent two different papers to the Society of arts on the same subject. Both these gentlemen concur in opinion with Miss Rhodes, that the silk-worm, in as far as regards the animal itself, can be reared in Britain, with as great propriety as in any other country. They even find, that the climate is in general more favourable to its constitution, than that of warmer countries. For as they assert, heat is in general much more destructive of this insect than cold, and can be warded off with much greater difficulty.—Thunder is peculiarly destructive to them. And as thunder is much more rare in Britain, than in warmer regions, it would, of course, be a much less hazardous article here, than in the countries where silk has usually been hitherto produced.

These gentlemen, however, both seem to be convinced, that the mulberry leaf is the only proper food for the silk worm, and are apprehensive, that lettuce or any other substitute for it would prove hurtful to the undertaking. These, however, are but conjectures which do not invalidate Miss Rhodes's experiment, which, in as far as one experiment can be relied on, proves decisive. There is still, however, reason to doubt, that till mulberry plants can be reared here in sufficient quan-

tities, the rearing of silk worms cannot be here carried on to such an extent, as to become an object of great national importance.

The editor of this miscellany was particularly attentive to all these experiments and reasonings, because he foretaw, that if this branch of rural economy could be introduced into this country, it could be carried on under the direction of a class of persons admirably well qualified for that business, and it would afford to them a beneficial employment, that they now very much stand in need of. The care of the silk worms themselves, and the reeling of silk from the cocoons, are businesses that cannot be properly performed but by females. The delicacy, the cleanliness necessary, and the lightness of the work, shew, that it ought to be appropriated to them. Now, there are many widow ladies in Scotland, who have got a very genteel education, that have but a very moderate income to live upon; these ladies and their daughters, are in want of some employment that would produce a reasonable return of profit to help them to live, which was at the same time so light, as not to subject the body to greater exertions than could be easily born, and so genteel, as not to degrade the person to the rank of servants who engaged in it. It instantly appeared, that the rearing of silk-worms, if once introduced, would answer this purpose most effectually. It must be carried on in the country; for there only the mulberry plants could be reared. This then would serve to establish respectable families in neat little retired hamlets in the country, where their innocence and purity of manners would be preserved; where they would become patterns of industry, neatness, and elegance to all around them; where they would be revered by the neighbourhood on account of their more liberal education, and the superior dignity of their conduct; the soundness of the advice they would give in trying occasions, and the mildness of their charities to those who are in want of them, whether mental or corporeal, would also ingratiate them with all their neighbours. They would thus become respectable members of society, respectable in their own eyes, as well as in the estimation of others, instead of being sunk as they are at present to a sort of dependant sphere in towns, where, from the want of those ornaments, which female vanity too often considers as necessities, their tempers become soured. They are neglected too often by the flatterers around them if not handsome, or if they have the misfortune to be beautiful, are too often surrounded by flatterers that can scarcely be resisted. To effect such a desirable change in the situation and circumstances of this amiable part of the community, is surely an object of such consequence, as to be well worth the attempting, were it even to be attended with some difficulties.

On examining the subject with attention, it is clear from proofs drawn from experience, that the mulberry plant can be made to thrive very well in this country; so that the only difficulty that remains to be removed, is to fall upon some mode of rearing this tree *in quantities, at a very cheap rate*. Here a great bar stood at first in the way. The only mode hitherto adopted of raising the mulberry in this country, is by layers. And this, considering the small quantity of stocks that can be here procured, and the slowness of the process, was evidently incapable of furnishing plants in abundance for some centuries to come. Why not,

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1791. ON REARING SILK-WORMS IN SCOTLAND. 139

said he to himself, raise them from seeds?—The white mulberry does not produce fruit; but is the white mulberry that alone on which silk-worms can be reared with profit?—A little reading soon satisfied him this is not the case; as in the kingdom of Valencia in Spain, and some other countries abroad, which raise abundance of fine silk, the black mulberry only is cultivated.

Thus encouraged, he procured some mulberry seeds from London. These he sowed;—the plants came up in abundance;—they are now in a thriving condition;—the fact is ascertained;—millions of mulberry-trees may be produced in a single season;—The plants may be afforded at as low a price as most kind of common trees in this country;—extensive, or what is better, numerous small plantations of these may be made at next to no expence.—In two years from the time of being planted, they can be employed for feeding silk worms.—In gathering the leaves, the younger parts of a family, which can scarcely be engaged about any gainful operation, might be safely employed.—Tending the worms themselves would furnish occupation to those farther advanced; while the winding the cocoons, which requires patience and attention, (and in which, if he be rightly informed, ten or twelve shillings might be easily earned in a day), would furnish a suitable work to the aged mother.

Such are the alluring prospects that open on the contemplation of this business. To those who have not investigated it with attention, they will appear too flattering; the more it is enquired into, however, it will appear to be the more and more within our reach. This will best appear by an impartial sketch of the history of the rise, progress, and present state of the business of silk rearing on the globe, which the editor will take an early opportunity of laying before his readers; and this, he hopes, will prove a speculation both useful and interesting.

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ONS. April 13,
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THE BEE,

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LITERARY WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER,

FOR

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 1791.

*A slight Descriptive Sketch of Edinburgh, when
viewed as a Picturesque Object.*

(With a View of the Castle.)

Persons who have not been in Edinburgh can
have no idea of the many picturesque views that may
be had of that place and its environs. As we pro-
pose to have some of the most striking of these objects
drawn on the spot, and exhibited from time to time in
this work, it will not be improper here to give a slight
description of that place.

The castle, from whatever side it is viewed, forms
a great and striking object. It occupies the summit of
a high rock, which forms the abrupt termination of a
narrow ridge that nature has raised up in very particu-
lar circumstances. It is doubtless the work of nature;
yet a fanciful imagination might conceive, that were

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it not for the immeasurable greatness of the undertaking, it might have been the work of art.

To the eastward, about a mile distant from the castle, is a beautiful plain, called *St. Ann's Yards*, on the level of which has been built the Abbey of Holyroodhouse, an ancient religious foundation, and latterly a palace of the kings of Scotland. From the level of this valley the ridge on which Edinburgh stands rises to the westward, by a gradual ascent, till it reaches the castle. On each side of that ridge runs a narrow valley, nearly parallel to each other, and not much elevated in any part above the level of the site of Holyroodhouse. These excavations are at the beginning very inconsiderable; but as you go westward, they become larger and deeper, in proportion as the ridge between them becomes higher and steeper. It seems as if these had been two large ditches, scooped out for furnishing the materials that were necessary for raising the ridge between them to the great height that was wanted. To exalt to its superior elevation the castle itself, this large ditch is continued round its base to the westward, so as to join the southern and the northern vallies together, and detach this ridge entirely from the country around on every side, except towards the east. These vallies were originally impassible marshes, so that they formed an impenetrable kind of natural rampart to the city. But as the southern excavation was of less extent than the other, and as space was much wanted for the convenience of the inhabitants, it was long ago drained, and a level street erected along its bottom, which is called the *Cowgate*, a wall having been raised to the southward of it, for the defence of the inhabitants; but the northern excavation continued a marsh till very lately, which was called the *North*, vulgo *Nor Loch**, and was the only defence the city ever had upon that quarter.

* This name sufficiently denotes, that there must have been one or more other lochs to oppose to it, which would be called the *south* or

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Upon this mound or ridge was built the castle and city of Edinburgh, the castle occupying the highest extremity of it to the westward, and the Abbey of Holyroodhouse the lowest site to the eastward. Between these two places extended a spacious street, for about a mile in length, along the very summit of the ridge, which, with great propriety, was called the *Higb Street*. This Street, on account of its length, width, and acclivity, and the great height of the houses on each side of it, has been accounted by all who have seen it, one of the most striking objects of the kind in Europe.

As this place was made choice of for a town merely on account of its natural strength, and the protection which the castle afforded, the houses were crowded together as much as possible, especially in the higher parts of it towards the castle, where the marshes on each side were a considerable security. The lower part of it was separated from the higher by means of a wall and strong gate, called the *Netherbow*, and formed only a suburb, which, as having been inhabited chiefly by the clerical order, belonging to the Abbey, the sacredness of whose character afforded them protection, was called the *Canongate* (*Vicus Canonicorum*), which name it retains till this day; but the gate which separated it from the town, was taken down near thirty years ago, as being now only a useless incumbrance to the street.

From the *higb street* many narrow lanes run off at right angles, which towards the castle were exceedingly steep; and from want of room to build upon, the houses were clustered together in an astonishing manner, and were raised to a height unknown in almost any other part of the world. Some of these buildings still

loch. Had there been no others, it would have been called simply *the loch*. The hollow to the southward at the foot of the castle is even at present so imperfectly drained, as to be nothing better than a kind of bog or quagmire.

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are to be seen, which consist of no less than twelve floors above each other, and which, when viewed from the deep valley below, appear to be of a terrific height *.

Such is the town itself; nor are the objects around it less singular and striking. The beautiful valley called St. Ann's Yards, is bounded on the south by two large hills, rising suddenly to a great height, which are called *Arthur's Seat*, and *Salisbury's Craig*. These, like the Castlehill, are steep and precipitous towards the west, though rising with a more gradual ascent from the eastward. To the northward this vale is bounded by another hill, of less height than the others indeed, but still greatly elevated above the adjacent plains. This is called the *Caltonhill*. The summit of this hill is considerably to the westward of the Abbey, and its rocky base encroaches on, and narrows at that place, the northern vale that bounds the ridge on which the town of Edinburgh stands; but as this is only behind the suburb of *Canongate*, it did not affect the natural strength of the town.

This hill has the same general character with the others above described, being steep and precipitous towards the west, and rising with a more gradual slope from the eastward. On the top of this hill are the walls of an observatory lately built, though never finished; and near it another singular tower-like structure, which, as picturesque objects, have a very good effect. The tomb of David Hume the historian, a plain circular

* It is to be observed, that this great height of the houses is only to be reckoned from the back parts. The declivity on which they stand is such, as that towards the street, only five or six floors, appear above the level. When you enter from the street, therefore, you may either ascend the stairs, or descend to the houses below; which, of course, can there be lighted only on one side. Many of these houses were inhabited even in my time, by persons in good rank among citizens. Such is the power of necessity, and the habits to which it gives rise. They are now totally abandoned by people of that description, and are chiefly occupied as work shops.

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building, stands perched on the summit of a cliff on the west brow of the hill.

Between this cliff and the castle the northern vale is of considerable width and depth, which was formerly the marshy lake called the North Loch. It has been lately drained; and the old town of Edinburgh is now, by means of a stupenduous bridge thrown across the vale, and also by an artificial earthen mound *, connected with a lower ridge of ground to the northward of that loch, on which has been erected what is now called the *New Town* of Edinburgh, in a style of architecture, which, for its elegance, can be equalled by no town in Europe †.

The southern valley, unless it was near the bottom of the castle, was always of less breadth than the North Loch. To the south of the Cowgate, the ground rises considerably, and stretches out to a great extent

* This immense artificial mound has been formed without any expence to the public, by the rubbish dug out from the foundations of the new houses that are to be built. The valley which it crosses is not less than 500 yards in length, and in perpendicular depth more than 100 feet. The mound is now above 100 feet broad at the top in some places, and at its base may be about 600 feet. All this mass of earth has been there accumulated in the space of six years. The mound is still increasing in breadth; and when it may stop, no one can tell. This may serve to give a slight notion of the extent of buildings carrying on about Edinburgh at this time; yet, notwithstanding the immense bulk of this heap of rubbish, it does not contain perhaps one third part of the quantity that has been cleared away for building houses about Edinburgh during the time above specified.

† Mr. Byres, a celebrated architect of Rome, well known by every British person who has visited that city for thirty years past, assured the writer of this article, that though in Italy, and many other places, a palace might be found here and there of much greater magnificence than Edinburgh can boast, yet these fine palaces are surrounded with houses much inferior in every respect to any thing that can be seen here; so that, taking it as a whole, he had no hesitation in saying it was the most elegant town he had ever seen. This is in a great measure owing to the vast profusion of the finest free stone, that abounds in this neighbourhood. There is not a single house in Edinburgh built of brick. All the new buildings are made of cut stone, which, in beauty and other qualities, is equal to Portland stone.

in an elevated plain, on which many new streets and squares have been lately erected, in the same stile of elegant architecture that characterises all the new building; about this place. A bridge has also been very lately thrown across this valley, which connects the southern suburbs with the town, by a continued street of great magnificence. The new college, which forms the south termination of this new bridge, is now rising up, in a stile of very superior elegance; of which we hope to be able soon to give our readers some idea by an engraved front of this superb structure.

Farther to the westward, upon the same elevated southern plane, fronting the castle, rises, in stately magnificence, a Gothic square structure, called Herriot's Hospital, built about 150 years ago, from a design of Inigo Jones; a most useful charity, founded by one George Herriot, for the purpose of educating boys, the sons of decayed burghesses in Edinburgh. As the funds belonging to this hospital were laid out chiefly on the purchase of lands in this neighbourhood, the value of which have increased very much of late years, its income is very considerable; and many persons who have been there educated now occupy a very respectable station in the community.

Near the castle, to the northward, on a small eminence, where the North Loch terminates, stands the parish church of St. Cuthbert's, usually called the *West Kirk*, which, in certain points of view, forms a very picturesque object.

The plate annexed to this number exhibits an exact perspective view of the castle, as seen from the west, about half a mile distant. Herriot's hospital appears to the right hand, with Arthur's seat and Salisbury rocks behind it. To the left is seen a part of the church and spire of St. Cuthbert's, with a small peep

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of the earthen mound, seen by the side of the rock of the castle. No part of the old town can be seen from this point of view, being wholly concealed by the castle.

On the mechanical Principles that served as a Foundation for that Stile of Architecture that has been called Gothic.

WAIVING all considerations on beauty, for the present, I mean only to inquire into the nature and origin of those striking peculiarities that serve to distinguish the Gothic from the Grecian stile of architecture; for if we shall be able to shew that these have been adopted, not as the capricious exertions of a wild imagination, running into a devious course in quest of imaginary beauties, but as mechanical contrivances calculated for effecting what could not otherwise have been accomplished, we shall be forced to consider that art in a point of view different from what has been commonly done; and if we can shew, that the artist has, in every case, happily effected the purpose aimed at, we shall be compelled to admire his ingenuity at least, whatever we may think of his taste.

In constructing a Gothic church, it seems to have been the intention of the architect to contrive a building that should be at the same time strong and durable, of great magnitude considered as a whole, lofty within, and spacious, little incumbered with objects there, and in every part perfectly well lighted and cheerful. If these were the objects aimed at by the artist, I trust I shall be able to shew, that all of them have been fully attained by contrivances the least expensive, and the most efficacious, that we can even at this hour conceive an idea of.

The first particular worthy of notice in these structures, as a deviation from the principles of Grecian architecture, is the slenderness of the columns, and the disproportioned distance at which they are placed from one another. The artists perceived, that if the large roof that would have been required to cover the great area they wanted, should be born up by columns of the same size and proportion, and placed at the same distances as the artists of Greece had prescribed, the object they aimed at must have been entirely frustrated. In that case, the greatest part of the area would have been occupied by the columns themselves, and the place would be so dark and gloomy, that it never could have answered the purpose they had in view. That mode of building, therefore, must of necessity be abandoned on this occasion, whatever they should find necessary to substitute in its stead †.

In reflecting upon the causes of those embarrassing peculiarities that thwarted their views, it would not be difficult to perceive, that the impossibility of finding single stones long enough to form the architrave which connected two columns together, must have been the chief cause of the Greeks being, in all cases, obliged to place their columns so near to each other as they had done. Could they, therefore, get free of this dif-

† From all that occurs in this essay, it will appear, that the writer does by no means wish to hold out what has been called the Gothic stile of architecture, as an invention new and unconnected with the Grecian architecture. He considers it merely as an improvement upon it; or, to avoid a dispute about words, he will call it an *alteration* of it, by which it is suited to answer the different purposes that a change of circumstances rendered necessary. It is sufficiently obvious, however, that these *reformers* did not look upon the rules prescribed by the Grecian architects with that reverence which modern artists do. They saw that without great alterations the useful purposes they had in view could not be effected; and finding that their rules must be departed from in some of their fundamental principles, they were little scrupulous about deviating from them in particulars of less importance. In the course of this essay, we shall have occasion to enquire whether these deviations were improvements or the reverse, and in what respects.

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sicility, they might separate the columns much farther than had been formerly the fashion. This was no sooner thought of, than they perceived, that if different pieces of stone were placed beside each other *in the form of an arch*, these stones, acting by their gravity alone, would be so strong as to support a weight above them as great as any single stone might do, if the abutments were secured so as not to give way. Two objects, therefore, which formed the base of an arch, might be removed from each other to a much greater distance than columns had ever before been placed.

So far well,—but much still remained to be done.

To render an arch firm, it must not only be supported from sinking downwards; but it must be also prevented from spreading outwards laterally. Solid abutments, therefore, must be provided, to guard against the effects of this lateral, as well as of the perpendicular pressure; and how is this to be done, where a column only is to serve as the support?

These artists, who seem to have studied the mathematical principles of arches with much greater accuracy than any of their descendents have done of late years, were not long in perceiving, that if one arch was made to abut laterally against another arch of the same size, constructed of the same materials, the pressure of the one would counteract that of the other, and they must of course remain in equilibrium. The lateral pressure was thus removed, and nothing now remained to be guarded against, except the perpendicular pressure; and provided the base be firm, and the lateral pressure on every side equal, they well knew that a very slender column of firm and durable materials, would be sufficient to support a very great incumbent weight.

But though one arch might thus counterpoise another, and as many as you pleased might be added to each other; yet still you must at last come to an end, where

no more arches were wanted, and where, of course, a counterpoise to act as an abutment was wanted. They thus found, that though a range of columns, supporting arches within the church, might be made of any length required, yet still, when you come to the ends, strong abutments were necessary to counteract the resistance occasioned by the lateral pressure of the arches; and these abutments they threw on the outside of the church.

To give stability to these abutments, they knew that a certain quantity of weight was necessary, and provided that weight was obtained, they were at liberty to choose the form they should give to the object which afforded it. This might be done, either by building a thick wall parallel with the spread of the arches that rose no higher than the arches themselves, or it might be effected by building a wall thinner in that direction, but of greater height, so as to contain the same weight of matter. Hence the origin of abutments, and of pinnacles,—two common appendages of Gothic architecture, which have been stigmatized by ignorance, as useless and barbarous ornaments. They are necessary parts of the structure, which can on no account be dispensed with in regard to churches, and the uses of which we shall have occasion farther to investigate. We now proceed in our investigation.

The reader has thus obtained an idea of a range of arches, supported by a row of columns of any length he may incline, in *one direction*. He has only to turn himself a quarter round, and suppose another range of columns placed opposite to each of these, and at right angles to the former, and to imagine these columns connected with each other by a similar process, and he will see that a solid support might thus be made for bearing up a roof of any extent. This is precisely what has been done in all our Gothic structures: But our artists have not rested here.

here, of course, as was wanted. They of columns, supported by arches, might be made of wood, if you come to the contrary to counteract the lateral pressure of the arches on the outside

ments, they knew it was necessary, and they were at liberty to give to the object as they thought best, either by the spread of the arches themselves, or by a wall thinner in the middle, so as to contain the origin of abutment appendages of the arches, which have been stigmatized by ornaments. They knew that which can on no account be applied to churches, and on occasion farther to our investigation.

idea of a range of arches of any length, and has only to turn to the plan of another range of these, and at once imagine these composed of a similar process, and might thus be extended to any extent. This is the principle of our Gothic structure here.

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Had ranges of arches been thus reared at right angles to each other only, the whole roof would have been divided into open squares, to cover which, beams of wood must have been extended across them; but wood was too perishable for the thing they wanted. It became necessary, therefore, so to order matters, as to dispense with the wood altogether. This they contrived, by springing an arch diagonally from the crown of one column, to that of the other in the opposite corner of the square; and the pressure of this being balanced by that of another behind it in the same diagonal direction, through the whole structure, till it was at last terminated by a solid abutment provided for that purpose, and another diagonal sprung from the opposite side, so as to meet it in the centre of the square, you would have a roof consisting entirely of arches, which might be closed at every part, without the intervention of any wood, the whole being supported by slender pillars, which, though seemingly weak, stood perfectly firm, because the weight was equally balanced on every side, and the pressure upon them could of course be only perpendicular. Such were the ideas that must have influenced the architect who first invented this style of architecture, which we have been liberal in stigmatizing, as the puerile invention of an ignorant age; yet among all the arts invented by man, I scarcely know one that discovers such a stretch of sublime invention.

Our self-taught artists, however, did not stop here, as every one acquainted with the kind of structures of which I now speak, very well knows. I have chosen to explain first the simple principle that served as the basis of all their operations, which, if once fully comprehended, will make the deviations from it, that circumstances sometimes rendered necessary, be easily comprehended.

Had a structure been reared on the principles here developed, it must have consisted of a great number of

squares, equal to each other in every dimension, and of an equal height also. According to this mode of building, the centre, which was wanted to be the most conspicuous part of the structure, would have been the darkest part of it, which, in a building of great dimensions, would have been extremely obscure. This defect must be corrected.

To do this, it was found necessary to enlarge the distance between the two middle rows of columns much farther than the others. But the question then was, how to give the columns firmness to resist the lateral pressure arising from the unequal weight that would be made to rest upon them. This, however, they did chiefly by two contrivances, that happily effected the purpose they wanted.

The *first* was, to raise a solid wall of considerable height upon the top of the arches that ran in a parallel direction to the middle *nef*. This wall, by its weight, gave stability to the columns under it, and of course made them be less affected by any small inequality of pressure upon them; and as the wall rose in height above the top of the arches of the side aisles, it gave room for placing a range of high windows on each side the *nef*, which admitted light freely into the middle of the church, where it was most wanted.

The *second* contrivance they adopted for preserving the equilibrium was, to make the arches of this large middle *nef* spring from the columns which supported them, in a direction as nearly perpendicular as they could, so as to make the pressure *outward* upon the side wall reared above the columns, as little as possible. With this view, it was found expedient not to form the roof of the segment of one arch, but to make it the segment of two large arches, which stood each nearly perpendicularly on one end upon the pillar, and at the top met each other in an acute angle over the middle of the *nef*. It would take up more time than our limits will here admit, to point out all the ad-

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vantages of this particular kind of arch, *for the purpose here required*, which those acquainted with the principles of mathematics, will have no difficulty of comprehending. Suffice it here to say, that this is the true origin and use of the *pointed* Gothic arch about which antiquaries have hazarded so many idle conjectures. It was adopted, like every other peculiarity of this stile of architecture, not from whim or caprice, but as a necessary form, happily adapted to effect a very valuable mechanical purpose. In after times, when the knowledge of the principles of the architecture of arches came to be little understood, this, like every other form of an arch, was frequently employed, where it was the most improper that could have been adopted. But need we be surpris'd at that, when, in our own days, we have seen the Catenarian arch warmly recommended as the very best form that could be adopted for the arches of a bridge, which admitted of abutments undeniably firm and stable, and where the arches were also of a very large span.

In some cases, however, where the artist found it convenient to flatten a little the middle *nef*, he contrived to counterbalance the greater lateral pressure which that occasioned, by rearing on the outside of the church a range of segments of arches, which sprung from the inside of the pinnacle reared upon the top of the side abutments, which rising above the roof of the side aisles, abutted with their whole weight upon the outside of the higher wall, running along the side of the *nef*, which, by its pressure, directly opposed the internal pressure of the arches of the *nef*.

Such were the uses of all those parts of a Gothic structure, that appear to many among us whimsical and incongruous; not one of them has been adopted but on the soundest principles of mechanics; nor can any one of them, *in certain circumstances*, be dispensed with, without endangering the stability of the structure to which they belong. That these contrivances,

invented at first for useful purposes, were never afterwards improperly adopted, will not be maintained. It is the part of the philosopher, to invent a proper machine; the artist only copies, on many occasions, what he sees has been already done, without knowing the reasons that rendered such particulars necessary. From ignorance, therefore, he often copied, *in certain cases*, a particular thing, which was, *in that case*, not only unnecessary, but improper. This has been done in all arts, and will continue to be practised till the end of time.

I should now proceed to explain some other peculiarities of Gothic architecture, that are not generally understood; but as this paper is already, I am afraid, too long for this miscellany, I shall here end it for the present.

To the Editor of the Bee.

SIR,

If so learned a man as you, are capable to hear reason from one who never was at a college, I would point out some plain rules for the advantage of all periodical authors: *First*, Either not to meddle with the politics of the country at all, or at least very sparingly, and that without taking a side. This was a rule laid down by Addison, who has possessed the first place in that class of writers for eighty years, and likely to keep it, for any successor that has as yet appeared; but if any author writes for present profit rather than future fame, then politics is certainly his most fruitful source, as at present, from the king to the cobbler, every body are politicians; but then the most profitable way is to give each side equal fair play; for though there are too many party men at present on both sides of the question, yet the great majority halt between both,

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and are like the spectators at a cock match who have betts depending on neither side, admire the feats of the combatants, but are quite indifferent which side win. By this means you gain a great number of readers from amongst the indifferent sort of politicians, and even make a shift to keep the party men on both sides too; for should one see his side well lickt in one number, he would still read on, in expectation of seeing the writer paid home, with interest, in some subsequent number, by some writer on his own side. I am certainly ignorant of your engagements to your correspondents, as I could not have dreamed of any honest man or good subject coming under engagements to excite the temper of the populace against the government, to serve the purposes of a discontented party; yet your admitting such a false state of the late convention with Spain, Sir; I call it false, because the ministry had pledged themselves to the country, to procure compensation to the private trader for the losses they had sustained by the unjust seizure of their property in time of peace: Therefore, had their interests been neglected, as your correspondent would insinuate, we should have heard of it in the proper place for such discussions, and not first through the channel of your paper. But your refusing to admit my answer, and in your last number giving such a panegyric on Mr. Fox's honesty, lets me see to whom you are under engagements. Before the coalition affair (which, by the bye, was the boldest attempt against the liberty of both king and people that the aristocracy has made for more than an hundred years), many folks believed Fox to be a mild honest fellow; but this opened the eyes of the country in general, because they saw now, that if Heaven refused to favour his ambition, he would crave the assistance of hell. Has not, then, every lover of British liberty reason to watch against such a man coming into power? Did not the ambition of one man destroy every vestige of Roman liberty, by their being so

imprudent as to trust Julius Cæsar, the Fox of that age, with power, though they thought they had still two superior to him; but though he had neither so much vain-glory as Pompey, nor so much brutal avarice as Crassus, he had more ambition than them both; and therefore, while he humoured his colleagues, each in his own foible, he was laying the foundation for overturning them both, with the liberties of his country into the bargain.

Hamilton, }
12th March 1791. }

Your's, &c.
CRITICUS.

Remarks on the above.

THE editor is obliged to Criticus for his good advice; and as a proof of his impartiality at least, he has inserted the above. The candid honesty of this writer pleases him; and his activity of mind, he thinks, is highly commendable.

As to engagements, the editor is under none, but those he has publicly come under to his readers, to do all he can to communicate to them true information respecting interesting subjects wherever they occur; and this he will steadily do as long as he holds his present office. As for *parties* in politics, he detests them all; and will never go out of his way either to support or to depress either of them, were that even in his power. Had Criticus beheld this object with as much indifference as the editor, he would have perceived, that at the same time the editor declined the panegyric on administration as unsuitable to his plan, he rejected some strictures on Mr. Pitt as equally improper. In this plan of impartiality he has resolved to persevere, though he is sensible, that to the admirers or abettors of either party he must appear prejudiced. Criticus then will be disappointed, if he expects to see either party well licked in this paper.

ks. April 20,

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CRITICUS.

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1791.

ANSWER TO CRITICUS.

257

In the parallel Mr. Criticus has run between Julius Cæsar and Mr. Fox, he has omitted one striking feature of dissimilarity between them: Cæsar was, from his earliest infancy, the most popular man in Rome; and at an age when others could not aspire to places of trust, he was exalted, by dint of that popularity, to the highest offices of the state. Mr. Fox never was, and probably never will be a favourite of the people; So much the reverse, that when, by a sort of accident, he did get into power, and had the good wishes of the most powerful political party in the nation, he was pulled down by the popular voice. Here then, the parallel fails most wonderfully between the two.

If we were to judge from the example of Cæsar, and many others, we would say that the Athenians and ancient Romans did well to make excessive popularity a crime punishable by the laws. However that may be, it is an undeniable fact, that the liberties of nations have been more frequently destroyed by means of the great popularity of particular men, than by all other circumstances put together. It therefore becomes the duty of a wise people, in a very particular manner, to scan the actions of every popular character, when invested with power; for popularity adds to power, and power is ever greedy of making incroachments. On these principles, the editor, who has seen too much of the world to put reliance on the virtue of the leaders of any party, will be cautious how he trusts to the words of any minister; and will be always dissident of the pretensions of those *in power*, and slow to join in the *hosannas* of the day. Let the parties change places as often as you please, his conduct would be the same. The man who is in power ought ever to be watched, whoever he be. But it does not follow, that he should be thwarted in all his purposes, or that it would be a desirable thing to see him turned out, and another put in his place; for that might be often verifying the old proverb, out of the *frying-pan* into the *fire*.

VOL. II.

K k

To the Editor,

From Censor, on Debtors.

SIR,

THE liberal style in which the remarks on my last are offered to the public, does indeed evince that their writer's intention is not to support an hypothesis, but to exert himself for the service of his country; and, in this patriotic resolution, every good man must wish him success. My first and only intention, when I began to write upon this subject, was a wish to contribute my mite towards the perfecting his plan, by at least endeavouring to arrest the public attention, and excite a spirit of inquiry. In this, my second letter, I do not intend to *reply*; for I, too, have no hypothesis: My object is still the same. If the present system of laws respecting debtors and creditors shall ever be superceded, it must be by one apparently attended with fewer inconveniencies; which can be procured but by weighing all possible situations with care and minuteness. The following two cases seem to be overlooked by that gentleman.

There is a class of men, who, according to the general acceptance of the word, cannot be called *fraudulent*; though, in my opinion, they are equally culpable with, and often infinitely more dangerous than those immediately falling under that description. These are they who, knowing their circumstances to be irretrievable, continue to involve themselves by increasing their debts, often to the ruin of their fellow-citizens. Their character is almost always good, which, cloaked by the mark of *religion*, they frequently use as a blindfold to the unwary, and take the money of the poor into their hands as a kind of favour, either without troubling themselves about repaying it, or, which is equally the same, never intending to pay it. Such characters cannot be too much detested; yet such too

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frequently occur; and it is almost impossible to prove fraud. If you bring them to a trial, and ask them why, in such circumstances, they took the *all* of such a widow to lie at interest; forsooth, they will answer, that they did not mean to deprive her. They will tell you that they only wished to prolong their credit a little, flattering themselves with the prospect of becoming able to pay all their creditors; which, perhaps they will add, they could have done, had not so many demands been made at once, &c. When such answers are given, and a fair surrender made, what could a jury do? They might think no punishment too grievous; but, as *no fraud* can be established, they *must* acquit. Yet, let me ask if there is not ground for suspecting,—if it would not be hard to subject the creditors in the costs of such a debtor's trial, when free from malice? It would not do to say the debtor is subject to all the inconveniencies enumerated in the 66th page of this volume; for no man will stay to endure them; and before this can take effect, you must devise some plan to force debtors to submit to them.

The second class I allude to are of a very different character; they are those who have been reduced by misfortune. These I know are comparatively few; but, as they occur, in devising regulations to comprehend debtors *in general*, their interest should not be forgotten.

In the remarks upon my former letter, the writer seems to intend that all debtors should be equally liable to the hardships before mentioned; which to me appears to be splitting upon the very rock (improper severity) he wishes to avoid, though under another form. People of this description ought rather to be assisted than distressed; but, lest I presume too much upon your goodness, I will only add, that where *misfortune*

can be proved to be the *cause* of bankruptcy, the debtor should not be at the mercy of creditors.

22d March }
1791. }

Sir, your most humble servant,
CENSOR.

Remarks on the above.

THE first case is particularly provided for, as Censor will find on looking back *, that debtors may not only be tried for frauds, but for *culpable* conduct also, of which the instance he produces is evidently an example.

The case of debtors which have been merely unfortunate, demands pity. But when we come to inquire whence misfortunes proceed, we shall find they arise in general either from negligence or misconduct, and may therefore be classed among those which have gone before; or they are occasioned by the very evil we mean to banish, if possible, from the land, bankruptcies of others, whose funds afford but a very small dividend. Were these three kinds of *unfortunate* debtors removed, it is believed there would few of that class remain. Obviate the last class of misfortunes, and scarce any others will remain, that a prudent man may not guard against with a degree of caution. Accidents by fire and by storms at sea, which, to merchants of old, were the source of heavy misfortunes, may be always guarded against by insurance. If a man's income be small, and he has contracted a habit of living above it, he is certainly in an unfortunate situation. But is it for the interest of the public that he should be encouraged to go on in that stile till he has next to nothing to pay? or ought he to stop while he can still do all men justice? The law proposed points it out strongly to be his interest to do the last. Ought it not to be so?

* Article 5th.

DEBTORS. April 20
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CENSOR.

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1791.

HYMNS BY SENEX.

261

To the Editor of Bee.

SIR,

YOUR having so readily inserted the two little pieces I sent you, induces me to hope you will favour the following with a place, when you find it will suit your convenience. I trust that a considerable portion of your readers will not think the room they occupy misapplied. I shall no farther incroach upon it, than to assure you these are from the same source as the last. If I see that these are favourably received, I shall send you *one* other piece from the same.

Your's, &c.

SENEX.

HYMN III.

"The glorious sun is set in the west, the night dews fall, and the air, which was sultry, becomes cool.

"The flowers fold up their coloured leaves; they fold themselves up, and hang their heads on the slender stalks.

"The chickens are gathered under the wing of the hen, and are at rest; the hen herself is at rest also.

"The little birds have ceased their warbling; they are asleep on the boughs, each one with his head behind his wing.

"There is no murmur of bees around the hive, or among the honeyed woodbines; they have done their work, and sit close in their waxen cells.

"The sheep rest upon their soft fleeces, and their loud bleating is no more heard among the hills.

"There is no sound of a number of voices, or of children at play, or the trampling of busy feet, and of people hurrying to and fro.

"The smith's hammer is not heard upon the anvil ;
nor the harsh saw of the carpenter.

"All men are stretched on their quiet beds ; and
the child sleeps on the breast of its mother.

"Darkness is spread over the face of the skies, and
darkness is upon the ground ; every eye is shut, and
every hand is still.

"Who taketh care of all people, when they are
sunk in deep sleep ; when they cannot defend them-
selves, nor see if danger approacheth ?"

"There is an eye which never sleepeth ; there is an
eye which seeth in the dark night, as well as in the
bright sunshine.

"When there is no light of the sun, nor of the
moon ; when there is no lamp in the house, nor any
little star twinkling through the thick clouds ; that eye
seeth every where, in all places, and watcheth continu-
ally over all the families of the earth.

"The eye that sleepeth not is God's ; his hand is al-
ways stretched out over us.

"He made sleep to refresh us when we are weary ;
He made night, that we might sleep in quiet.

"Labourers spent with toil, and young children, and
every humming insect, sleep quietly ; for God watch-
eth over you.

"You may sleep ; for he never sleeps : you may
close your eye in safety ; for his eye is always open
to protect you.

"When the darkness is passed away, and the beams
of the morning sun strike through your eye-lids, be-
gin the day with praising God, who hath taken care
of you through the night.

"Let his praise be in your hearts when you lie
down ; let his praise be on your lips when you a-
wake."

April 20,

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1791.

HYMNS BY SENECA.

263

HYMN IV. *From the Jame.*

" Child of reason, whence comest thou ? what has
thine eye observed, and whither has thy foot been
wandering ?

" I have been wandering along the meadows, in the
" thick grass. The cattle were feeding around me,
" or reposing in the cool shade ; the corn sprung
" up in the furrows ; the poppy and the harebell
" grew among the wheat ; the fields were bright
" with summer, and glowing with beauty."

" Didst thou see nothing more ? Didst thou observe
nothing beside ?—Return again, child of reason, for there
are greater things than these. GOD was among the fields,
and didst thou not perceive him ? His beauty was upon
the meadows ; his smile enlivened the sun-shine.

" I have walked through the thick forest ; the wind
" whispered among the trees ; the brook fell from
" the rocks with a pleasant murmur ; the squirrel
" leapt from bough to bough ; and the birds sung to
" each other amongst the branches."

" Didst thou hear nothing but the murmur of the
brook ? No whispers, but the whispers of the wind ?
Return again, child of reason, for there are greater
things than these.—GOD was amongst the trees ; his
voice sounded in the murmur of the water ; his music
warbled in the shade ; and didst thou not attend ?

" I saw the moon rising behind the trees ; it was like a
" lamp of gold. The stars, one after another, ap-
" peared in the clear firmament. Presently, I saw
" black clouds arise, and roll towards the south ; the
" lightning streamed in thick flashes over the sky ;
" the thunder growled at a distance ; it came near-

"er, and I felt afraid, for it was loud and terrible."

Did thy heart feel no terror, but of the thunderbolt? Was there nothing bright and terrible, but the lightning? Return, O child of reason, for there are greater things than these.——God was in the storm, and didst thou not perceive him? His terrors were abroad, and did not thine heart acknowledge him?

"God is in every place; *he* speaks in every sound we hear; *he* is seen in all that our eyes behold: Nothing, O child of reason, is without God;—Let God, therefore, be in all our thoughts."

The following paper, with the note prefixed to it, was found in the repositories of a gentleman who has been dead for some time. The person into whose hands this paper has since fallen, never saw the rose alluded to in the description. The note appeared to him however, a matter of too much curiosity to be allowed to fall into oblivion; he therefore sends it to the Editor of the Bee, in hopes of getting, through the channel of his numerous correspondents, some farther elucidations on this very singular vegetable production.

R.

Rose of Jericho.

Copy of a Paper received from Mr. ——— about this rose, of which he has one, which, with this description, has been in the family ever since his grandfather's time, (perhaps 60 years); and it now blows as well as ever. As I have also a rose, which suppose I have had for 30 years, I begged this copy, and got it.

As Lebanon is famous for its palm trees, so is Jericho for its roses.

April 20,

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1791.

ROSE OF JERICHO.

265

They were of a peculiar kind, and grew upon trees not unlike our alder trees, the flowers of which are the roses so much celebrated, consisting of envelopes of buds one above another. It was the peculiar quality of this flower, that it was not liable to corruption, but would continue dried for many years; and upon being put in water, would expand itself; and when taken out, would contract itself again. It was with a view to this distinguishing quality, peculiar to the rose of Jericho, its incorruptibility, of which the opening and contracting is a consequence, that in Ecclesiasticus, chap. 24, verse 14, the holy man that walked humbly with his God, most beautifully compares the spirit by which he was enabled so to do, to the roses of Jericho.

Modern travellers speak much of this remarkable flower, as still produced in the country about Jericho.

Corrections on Mr. Young's account of taxes, payable out of his estate, continued from page 183.

No branch of education deserves to be more attended to, than that which teaches man to reason fairly, and to draw just conclusions from the facts that obtain his attention; but unfortunately, this does not fall within the ordinary routine of the schools. In this miscellany, opportunities will be sometimes embraced to give the younger part of its readers some hints on that subject.

No branch of knowledge affords such frequent opportunities for these hints, as that which regards political economy; for here, the number of objects that have an influence on each other, are so great, that it is difficult to advert to the whole, with the precision which is necessary to guard from error. An object of that kind here presents itself, the account of Mr.

VOL. II.

†

L 1

Young's taxes mentioned in our last, which we shall be able to shew, have been very erroneously stated by that ingenious gentleman.

The reader will recollect, that his general conclusion was, "that out of a portion of land, which yields the proprietor 229 l. 12 s. 7 d., the public burdens take 219 l. 18 s. 5 d." This sentence is so worded, as to convey the idea to most persons, that the author means to say, the public burdens want only 9 l. 14 s. 2 d. of exhausting the whole rent; so that the proprietor of that estate would have nothing more than this last sum free for the support of his family. The expression will not perhaps, in strict propriety, admit of this interpretation, though it obviously was intended to convey that idea, or at least, will convey that idea to most persons who shall read the account. I shall now take it up, in that point of view, and shall shew what would be the free sum remaining with the proprietor out of that estate, after a deduction of all the taxes when fairly stated.

The gross rental, we are told, is, £ 295 3 0

From this cannot be deducted the tythe, because this is in all cases paid by the tenant, without affecting his rent.—Neither can the poor's rates be deducted from it, as in England these are invariably paid by the tenant, without affecting the rent stipulated to be paid to the landlord.

The land tax ought, indeed, to be deducted, if it be payable by the landlord: But in many cases, that is payable by the tenant. This, I am told, is very general in England; and in that case, it ought not to be deducted. Even in the other case, it ought rather to be a deduction from the gross rental at first; for although this be annually paid by the landlord, as it is usually deducted from the rental when land is purchased, it cannot be accounted as any part of the proprietor's

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property. This may be, in a still more particular manner, said of feudal quit rent, and the other articles in this division, which can only be accounted as a fund put under the management of the proprietor, for which he never gave any value *.

Road duty, and turn-pike tax come under a very different denomination. These can only be placed on the same footing with stock employed in trade for a beneficial purpose;—and perhaps, it would be impossible to name another kind of stock that proved so beneficial, as for every shilling these amount to, the proprietor of an estate, for the most part, will draw more than ten.

Assessed taxes, by which I here understand house and window-tax, &c., ought not to be here stated neither: Not for the tenants, because these pay their rent over and above these taxes; so that whatever this amount be, they take nothing from the rental, when that is once established;—not for the proprietor *in this case*, because, as he occupies a part of his own land, he comes exactly in the place of a tenant, and, of course, must pay these taxes, not out of the rent, but out of his profits as a farmer.

* To make this matter quite clear—Suppose a man bargains for a perpetual lease of a certain piece of ground at the stipulated rent of one hundred pounds a year, the property in this case remains entirely with the person who had a right to let the lease.—A perpetual lease is in effect a feu under another name;—or say, it was a feu in due form, for which no purchase-money had been paid, it would be the same thing. Suppose again, that the holder of this feu had a little money by him, and wished to redeem a certain part of the annual feu duty, say 50, or 70, or 90 l. If they agreed upon the terms, he would then become the entire proprietor of that 50, or 70, or 90 l a year, and no more, and would be entitled to convert it to his own use;—but as to the remaining 50, or 30, or 10 l., it is not his property, nor can he ever have any right to apply it to his own use, till he shall obtain a title to it by purchase or otherwise. From this example, it is plain, that when a man accounts feudal quit rents a deduction from his property, he prefers a claim to which he has not a right either in law or equity. This was never his property, and he can have no right to count upon it as such.

For the same reason, he cannot charge any thing for the malt-duty consumed in his family.—He might as well charge the malt itself, or the corn his horses consume.—These are all included under the head of charges of husbandry, which must be all paid before any rent can be afforded; and therefore, can never come to be deducted from that rent, after it is once liquidated.

But if the malt duty consumed by those on the estate, ought not to be charged, what shall we say to the charge of malt duty on every acre of barley produced on his farm? Part of that barley has been made into malt for the use of the family, which has been already unjustly charged: and here it comes to be charged a second time. The remainder of the barley must be consumed in malt, by some other persons, who in like manner would be charged with the malt tax; so that the whole would be rated twice over. Nothing can be more absurd than this article of charge.

For similar reasons with those given above, the deduction, on account of the depression of the price of wool, ought not to be here charged, as the rent is paid while the wool is thus depressed. That rental, therefore, when once liquidated, cannot be affected by this article.

Neither ought repairs perhaps to be included in this article. These, if necessary, belong properly to the head of labouring expences. If they are only occasioned by whim or caprice, they should come under the head family expences.

Thus we come to find, by a nice scrutiny, that instead of 9*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.* which the proprietor had free out of this estate, he will in effect have to live upon near 300*l.* after all those taxes shall have been paid, that ought to be properly charged on his estate, independent of taxes on consumption.

The following articles, if they were included in the rental; will fall indeed to be deducted from it, viz.

RES. April 13,

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1791. ON MR. YOUNG'S STATE OF TAXES. 269

Land tax,	-	-	L. 39	12	0
Quit rent,	-	-	2	2	7
Cattle guards,	-	-	0	7	2
			£ 42	1	9
Which deducted from,	-	-	295	3	0
Leaves of free rent,	-	-	253	1	9

For the support of the landlord's family, and even that 42 l. 1 s. 9 d. ought not in strict propriety to be accounted any deduction, because it scarcely could have ever been accounted a part of the property of the proprietor, as it is usually deducted at a purchase, and no money is given for it.

Should the writer maintain that all the payments above named, though not deductible from the rental, ought still to be accounted deductions from the estate, because the rental is proportionally lower than it would otherwise have been, had not these payments been to be made, this will be readily admitted. But upon this principle, not only should these deductions have been made, but many others. All the expence of cultivating the ground, and the farmer's profit, ought also to be deducted from it, because all these must be paid out of the profit of the estate, before any rent could be afforded. This however is a mode of computation that no man hath ever thought of adopting; and if it were adopted, the deductions should not be made from the rental, but from the gross produce of the estate, which, in the present case, would probably have been somewhat about 1500 l.

Before I leave this subject, it will not be incurious to shew, that by the mode of computation adopted by Mr. Young, it might happen that in many cases a proprietor would seem to be a great loser by holding an estate. Thus, allowing that all the other articles of charge should remain as in Mr. Young's estimate, except the poor's rate,

270 ON MR. YOUNG'S STATE OF TAXES. April 13,

These would amount to	-	L. 166 18 5
Poor's rate at 15 s. per pound of gross rent, which is no very uncommon case in England,	-	220 15 9
Then according to this statement, the gross amount of taxes would be,	-	387 14 2
Nett receipt of rent,	-	229 13 7

So that the nett loss on this estate <i>per annum</i> should be,	-	158 0 7
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Such are the extraordinary conclusions we are obliged to draw in consequence of an erroneous mode of reasoning !!!

State Paper.

THE Editor has been favoured with an authenticated copy of the following State Paper, which, as expressing the sense of the members of the Scotch Parliament at the union, respecting the test act, will, it is believed, be very acceptable to our readers at this time.

In the parliament, the 10th day of January 1707, a vote was stated in these terms, "Add a clause to the twenty second article of union, in the following terms, That so long as that part of the second act, Anno 30th, Char. II. appointing a sacramental test†, shall stand in force to England, all persons bearing office within the limits of Scotland, either civil or military, shall swear or sign a Formula, subjoined to the said clause, and insert in the minutes of this date, *yea* or *not*; and it carried *not*; and the list of the members as they voted, add or not," (ordered to be printed) is as follows.

† The clause in the union here alluded to, follows: "And that every one of the Lords of Parliament of Great Britain, and every member of the house of Commons of the parliament of Great Britain in the first, and all succeeding parliaments of Great Britain, until the parliament of Great Britain shall otherwise direct, shall take the respective oaths, appointed to be taken instead of the oaths of allegiance

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1791. TEST ACT.—SCOTSH PARLIAMENT 1707. 271

NOES.	AD .
<i>Of the Nobility.</i>	<i>Of the Nobility.</i>
Marq. of Montrose P. S. C.	Duke of Hamilton
Duke of Argyll	Marquess of Lothian
Marquess of Tweeddale	Marquess of Annandale
EARLS.	EARLS.
Mar, Sec.	Errol
Lowdon, Sec.	Marischal
Sutherland	Buchan
Roths	Eglintoun
Glencairn	Caithness
Roxburgh	Wigton
Haddingtoun	Galloway
Dalhousie	Selkirk
Findlater	Hyndford.
Leven	VISCOUNTS.
Northesque	Stormont
Balcarras	Kilsyth.
Forfar	LORDS.
Kilmarnock	Scuple

and supremacy, by an act of parliament made in England, in the first
 year of the reign of the late King William and Queen Mary, intituled
 An Act for the abrogating of the oaths of Supremacy and Allegiance
 and appointing other oaths, and make, subscribe, and audibly repeat the
 declaration mentioned in an act of parliament, made in England, in the
 thirtieth year of the reign of King Charles the Second, intituled an Act
 for the more effectual preserving the King's person and government, by
 disabling Papists from sitting in either house of Parliament, and shall
 take and subscribe the oath mentioned in an act of parliament made in
 England, in the first year of her majesty's reign, intituled, An Act to
 declare the alterations in the oath appointed to be taken by the act,
 intituled an act for the further security of his Majesty's Person, and the Suc-
 cession of the Crown in the Protestant line, and for extinguishing the
 hopes of the pretended Prince of Wales, and all other pretenders, and
 their open and secret Abettors, and for declaring the association to be
 determined at such time, and in such manner, as the members of both
 houses of Parliament of England are, by the said respective acts, direct-
 ed to take, make, and subscribe the same, upon the penalties and dis-
 abilities in the said respective acts contained. And it is declared and
 agreed, That these words, This Realm, The Crown of this Realm, and
 the Queen of this Realm, mentioned in the oaths and declarations con-
 tained in the aforesaid acts, which were intended to signify the Crown
 and Realm of England, shall be understood of the Crown and Realm of
 Great Britain: And that in that sense, the said oaths and declaration be
 taken and subscribed by the members of both houses of the Parliament
 of Great Britain.

272 TEST ACT.—SCOTSH PARLIAMENT 1707. April 13.

NOES.

ADD.

Of the Nobility.

Of the Nobility.

EARLS.

LORDS.

Kintore
Dunmore
Marchmont
Cromarty
Roscberry
Glasgow, Ther. Dept.
Hoptoun
Delorain
Illy

Oliphant
Blantyre
Bargany
Belhaven
Kinnaird

LORDS.

Forbes
Saltoun
Elphinston
Rofs
Torphichen
Frazer
Banff
Elbank
Duffus
Rollo
Lord Register
Lord Justice-Clerk.

Of the Barons.

Of the Barons

Sir Robert Dickson of Inverask
John Cockburn younger of Ormiston
Sir John Swintoun of that ilk
Sir Alexander Campbell of Cefnock
Sir William Ker of Greenhead
Archibald Douglas of Cavers
William Bennet of Grubbet
Mr. John Pringle of Haining
William Morison of Prestoungrange
George Baillie of Jerviswood
Sir John Johnston of Westerhall
William Douglas of Dennoch
Mr. William Stewart of Castle-Stewart
Mr. John Stewart of Sorbie
Mr. William Dalrymple of Glenmuir
Mr. John Montgomery of Warr
John Halden of Gleneagie
Mungo Grahame of Gortny

Robert Dundas of Arncliffe
George Lockhart of Carnwath
Sir John Lauder of Fountainhall
Sir Patrick Hume of Rentoun
Sir Gilbert Elliot of Minto
William Baillie of Lamingtoun
John Sinclair younger of Steven-
son
James Hamilton of Aikenhead
John Sharp of Hodham
Mr. Alexander Ferguson of Iffe
Mr. Francis Montgomery of Giffan
Sir Hugh Cathcart of Carleton
John Baillie younger of Bishop-
ton
Mr. William Cochran of Kilma-
noch
Sir Humphrey Colquhoun of Luff
Robert Rollo of Powhouse
John Murray of Struan
Hugh Rofs of Kilrayock

1707. April 13.

Nobility.

RDS.

Of the Barons

Andas of Armitoun
Blackhart of Carnwath
Auder of Fountainhall
Hume of Rentoun
Elliot of Minto
Baillie of Lamingtoun
air younger of Steven-
miltoun of Aikenhead
p of Hodham
ander Ferguson of Me
cis Montgomery of Giffan
Cathcart of Carletoun
han younger of Bishop-
iam Cochran of Kilma-
ch
Chrey Colquhoun of Luf
ello of Powhouse
rray of Steven
ds of Kilrayock

1791. TEST ACT.—SCOTSH PARLIAMENT 1707. 273

Of the Barons.

Sir Thomas Burnet of Leyes
William Seton younger of Pitmed-
den
Alexander Grant younger of that
ilk
Sir Kenneth Mackenzie
Mr. Aeneas M'Cleod of Cadboll
Mr. John Campbell of Mammore
Sir James Campbell of Auchinbreck
Ja. Campbell younger of Ardkin-
glats
Sir William Anstruther of that ilk
James Halyburton of Pitcur
Alexander Abercrombie of Glaffach
Alexander Douglas of Eagleshaw

Of the Burrows.

John Scrimjour
James Scot
Sir John Erskine
James Spittle
Mr. Patrick Moncrieff
Sir Andrew Home
Sir Peter Halket
Sir James Smollet
Mr. William Carmichael
Mr. William Sutherland
Captain Daniel M'Cleod
Sir David Dalrymple
Sir Alexander Ogilvie
Mr. John Clark
Mr. Dougal Stewart
Mr. Rofs
John Patrick Ogilvie
John Allardyce
William Alvis
Mr. James Bethun
Mr. Rorie Mackenzie
John Urquhart
Daniel Campbell
Sir Robert Forbes
Mr. Robert Frazer
Mr. Robert Douglas
Mr. Alexander Maitland
Mr. George Dalrymple
Mr. Charles Mackenzie

Of the Barons.

John Forbes of Colloiden
Mr. Thomas Hope of Rankellor
William Maxwell of Cardonch
Alexander M'Kye of Palgoun
James Sinclair of Stenulter
Sir Henry Innes younger of that ilk
Mr. Alex. Abercrombie of Tili-
body.

Of the Burrows.

Sir Patrick Johnston
Robert Inglis
Walter Steuart
Hugh Montgomery
John Mure
Alexander Edgar
Francis Melilou
Walter Scot
William Coltrau
Robert Scot
Robert Kellie
Archibald Shiells
George Brodie
George Spence
Mr. John Caruthers
George Home
John Bayne
Sir James Steuart

An Address to the Swallow.

HAIL, swift messenger of spring,
 Gaily sporting on the wing,
 Through the fields and meadows green,
 Little sportive, harmless things;
 In my window build thy nest,
 Nothing shall disturb thy rest;
 Nor thy little callow brood,
 While for them thou seekest food.
 On my roof, devoid of fear,
 'Ttwittering, thou shalt charm my ear,
 And enjoy thy summer's stay,
 Till, to warmer suns away
 'Thou shalt wing thy rapid flight,
 On the coast of Afric light,
 There enjoy a brighter sky,
 And our nipping frosts defy,
 Drifted snow and rattling hail,
 Which the robins here assail.
 Lovely stranger, half divine,
 Spring and summer still are thine.

*On the Vanity of Ambition, from the Miscellanies in
Prose and Verse.*

Pol magis sapisset, si dormisset domi.

PLAUTUS.

THE horse, when well supply'd with corn and hay,
 With patience bears the labours of the day;
 At his hard lot he never once repines,
 Nor pants to know what *providence designs*;
 And, after all the wile pretend to see,
 Perhaps our nags know just as well as we.
 The dog is happy when his paunch is full,
 No phantoms of ambition plague his skull;

April 20.

1791.

ON AMBITION.

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To serve his owner, modestly content,
He reaps the raptures of a life well spent.
Puffs, killing rats, exults through every vein,
Nor lets the *longitude* derange her brain.
The rat entrenching in a rotten cheese,
No higher happiness or seeks or sees.
In short, all animals but restless man,
Are pretty well content with Nature's plan;
And though with ills they stand incessant strife,
Yet never in contempt relinquish life.
And we, inheriting a soul *divine*!
Above blind instinct certainly should shine;
But *Reason* only makes us greater fools,
We're constantly at war with Reason's rules;
Ten thousand idle wants we madly make,
And for each phantom put our all to stake.
This frantic wish, for instance, fires the breast;
Each mortal would rejoice to rule the rest.
Had haughty Cæsar been content to keep
In Alpine solitudes a herd of sheep,
More happy had he liv'd a humble swain,
Than when at Munda he reconquer'd Spain;
Where Courage to Despair began to yield,
And Chance bestow'd the honours of the field.
Or, was he blest when senates round him bow'd,
And foes to his contempt their safety ow'd,
When Tully's tongue was eager to obey,
And Egypt's Syren mark'd him for her prey?
Let all such heirs of Glory, if they will,
Determine either to be kill'd or kill.
That mode of madness shall not crack my head;
My grand ambition is to die a-bed.
I care not what the Russians are about,
Nor whether France and Germany fall out;
What tawny tyrant keeps the Moors in awe;
What Tartar chief succeeds to Nadir Shaw
When by Japan the Pope shall be obey'd,
Or all Amboyna on the Dutch repaid.
England for me, shall never rule the main;
I would not break one limb, ten cat-skin ports to gain;
Nor quit the comforts of my kitchen fire,
That gaping mobs my courage may admire;
That some vile statesman, of his blood-hounds vain,
May spread destruction through a fresh campaign,
And bankrupt nations add an endless score,
To what both Indies could not pay before.

M m 2

SIR, the following hints on Economy, I transcribed from some publication long ago. I hope you will think they deserve a place in your useful publication. A. B.

As you desired of me, I write you the following hints, which have been of service to me, and may, if observed, be so to you.

Remember that time is money. He that can earn ten shillings a day by his labour, and goes abroad, or sits idle one half of that day, though he spends but sixpence during his diversion or idleness, it ought not to be reckoned the only expence; he hath really spent or thrown away five shillings besides.

Remember that credit is money. If a man lets money lie in my hands after it is due, he gives me the interest, or as much as I can make of it during that time. This amounts to a considerable sum, if he has good and large credit, and makes good use of it.

Remember that money is of a prolific and generating nature. Money can beget money, and its offspring can beget more, and so on. Five shillings turned, is six shillings; turned again, is 7 s. 3 d., and so on till it becomes 100 l.; the more there is of it, the more it produces every turning, so that the profits rise quicker and quicker. He that kills a breeding sow, destroys all her offspring to the thousandth generation. He that murders a crown, destroys all it might have produced, even scores of pounds.

Remember that six pounds a year, are but four-pence per day. For this little sum, which may be daily waited in our expence unperceived, a man of credit may on his own security have the constant use and possession of 100 l. So much in stock briskly turned by an industrious man, produces great advantage.

Remember this saying, "That the good paymaster is master of another man's purse." He that is known to pay well, that is punctually and exactly to the time he promises, may at any time, and on any occasion, raise all the money that his friend can spare. This is sometimes of great use. Therefore never keep borrowed money an hour beyond the

April 20,

1791.

ECONOMICAL ADVICES.

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time you promised, lest a disappointment shut up your friend's purse for ever.

The most trilling actions that affect a man's credit ought to be regarded. The sound of a hammer at 5 o'clock in the morning, or 9 at night, heard by a creditor, makes him easy six months longer.

But if he sees you at a billiard-table, or hears your voice at a tavern, when you should be at work, he sends for his money the next day.

Finer cloaths than he or his wife wears, or greater expence in any particular than he affords himself, shocks his pride, and he duns you to humble you. Creditors are a kind of people that have the sharpest ears, as well as the best memories of any in the world. Good natured creditors (and such one should always choose to deal with, if one could) feel pain when they ask for money. Spare them that pain, and they will love you. When you receive a sum of money, divide it equally among them in proportion to your debts.

Don't be ashamed of paying a small sum because you owe a greater. Money, more or less, is always welcome; and your creditor will rather be at the trouble of receiving 10 l. voluntarily brought him, though at ten different times or payments, than be obliged to go ten different times to demand it, before he can receive it in a lump. It shews that you are mindful of what you owe, it makes you appear a careful, as well as an honest man; and that still increases your credit.

Beware of thinking all your own you possess, and of living accordingly. 'Tis a mistake that many people who have credit fall into. To prevent this, keep an exact account for some time of both your expences and incomes. If you take pains at first to mention particulars, it will have a good effect: You will discover how wonderfully small trilling expences mount up to large sums; and would discern what would have been, and may for the future be saved, without occasioning any great inconvenience. In short, the way to wealth, if you desire it, is as plain as the way to market. It depends chiefly on two words, *Induf-*

try and Frugality; i. e. waste neither your time nor your money, but make the best use of both.

He that gets all he can, and saves all he gets (necessary expences excepted) will certainly become rich.

If that being who governs the world, in whom all should look for a blessing on their honest endeavours, doth not in his wise providence otherwise determine.

A. B.

Lord Gardenstone's Remarks on some English Plays, continued from p. 200.

The Chances, a Comedy.

THIS is the only old play which has been altered to advantage; because it is the only one altered by a man of true taste and genius. This was Buckingham. I hardly know a more amusing play for the stage, or the closet. Here is no constrained improbable plot, no modern studied language and affected wit; but comical adventure, easy conversation, natural humour, and true character, such as comedy ought to be, and rarely is.

The Spanish Friar, a Tragi-Comedy.

DEYTON had many excellencies, and many faults. His dramatic pieces are generally bombast in the poetry, and absurd in the plots, and were justly the main butt of Buckingham's wit in his excellent play, *The Rehearsal*. Of his numerous plays, the present is the only one which can be produced as a proper entertainment on the stage. His other works entitle him to a high rank among our poets. His prose writings have merit, though his dedications are fulsome and servile.

Every Man in his Humour, a Comedy.

THIS is an admirable comedy, though it is rather defective in plot. The scenes are highly entertaining, and the characters are drawn and maintained with the finest strokes of nature, humour, and sense. Garrick's prologue is very good; but I cannot commend his alterations on the play. They are miserably distinguishable from the original, but good enough to please the bulk of his audience. No word of Johnson or Shakspeare can be changed, but for a worse.

I doubt if ever Garrick wrote any thing so well as the prologue to this play, which indeed is admirable.

April 10,

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English Plays, conti-

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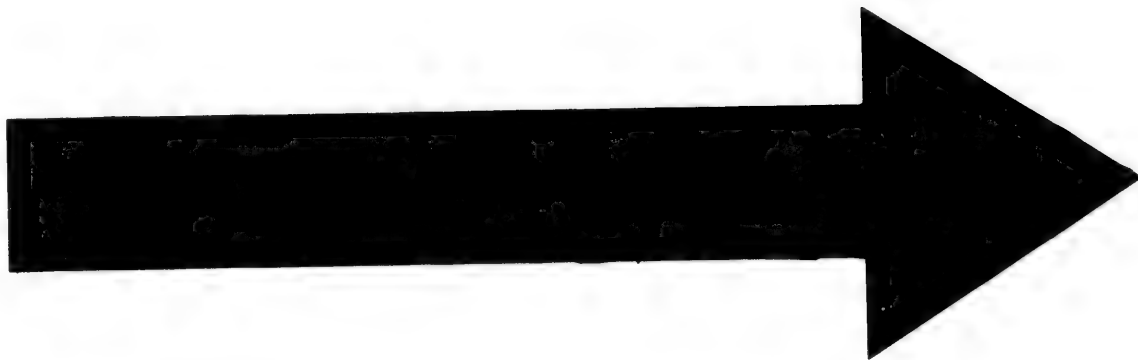
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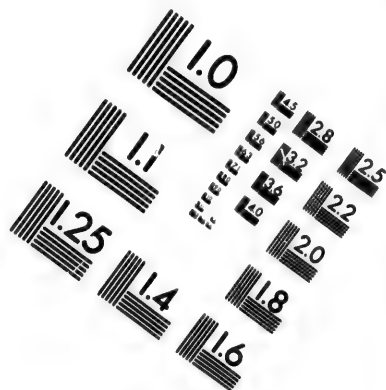
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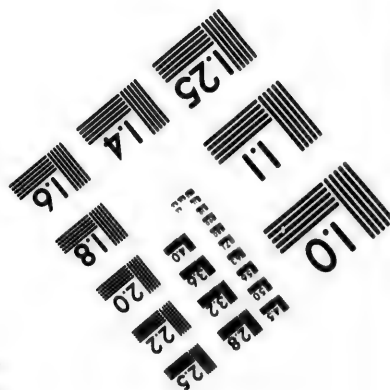
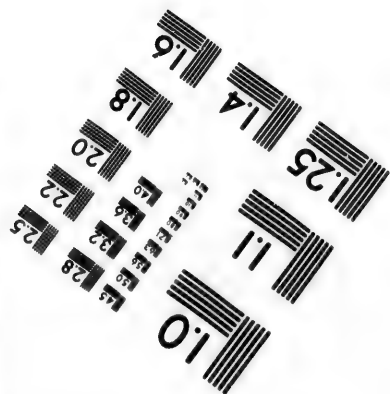
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King Henry the V. a Tragedy, by Aaron Hill.

WITH what a disgraceful motley of nonsense and absurdity has this modern poet confounded the beauties of Shakspeare in this play.

As a specimen of modern enunciation, it may be worth while to compare the ancient and modern prologues.

Prologue, by Shakspeare.

O FOR a muse of fire, that would ascend
The brightest heaven of invention!
A kingdom for a stage, princes to act,
And monarchs to behold the swelling scene!
Then should the warlike Harry, like himself,
Assume the port of Mars; and at his heels,
Leasht in, like hounds, should famine, sword, and fire
Crouch for employment. But pardon, gentles all,
The flat unraised spirit that hath dar'd,
On this unworthy scaffold, to bring forth
So great an object. Can this cockpit hold
The vasty field of France? or may we cram
Within this wooden O, the very casks
That did affright the air at Agincourt?
O, pardon; since a crooked finger may
Attest, in little space, a million;
And let us cyphers to this great account
On your imaginary forces work.
Suppose, within the girdle of these walls
Are now confin'd two mighty monarchies,
Whose high up-reared and abutting fronts
The perilous narrow ocean parts asunder.
Piece out our imperfection with your thoughts;
Into a thousand parts divide one man,
And make imaginary puissance.
Think, when we talk of horses, that you see them
Printing their proud hoofs i' th' receiving earth;
For 'tis your thoughts that now must deck our Kings,
Carry them here and there, jumping o'er times,
Turning th' accomplishments of many years
Into an hour-glass; for the which supply,
Admit me Chorus to this history;
Who, prologue-like, your humble patience pray,
Gently to hear, kindly to judge, our play.

Prologue by Aaron Hill.

FROM wit's old ruins, *shadow'd o'er with bays*,
We draw some rich remains of Shakspeare's praise.

Shakespeare!—the sound bids charm'd attention wake :
 And our aw'd scenes, with conscious reverence, shake !
 Arduous the task, to mix with Shakespeare's muse !
 Rash game ! where all who play are sure to lose.
 Yet— what our author cou'd, he dard to to try,
 And kept the fiery pillar in his eye.
 Led by such light, as wou'd not let him stray,
 He pick'd out stars, from Shakespeare's milky way.
 Hid in the cloud of battle, Shakespeare's care,
 Blind with the dust of war, o'erlook'd the fair :
 Fond of their fame, we shew their influence here,
 And place 'em twinkling through war's smoaky sphere.
 Without their aid, we lose love's quick'ning charms ;
 And sullen virtue naps, in *sterile arms*.
 Now, rightly mix'd, the culiver'd passions move,
 Love softens war,—and war invig'rates love.
 Oh ! cry'd that tow'ring genius of the stage,
 When, first, his Henry charm'd a former age :
 " Oh ! for a Muir of fire, *our cause to friend*
 " That might invention's brightest heav'n ascend !
 " That, for a stage, a *kingdom might be seen* !
 " Princes to act, *grac'd with their native mien* !
 " And monarchs, to behold the swelling scene !
 " Then, like himself, shou'd warlike Harry rise ;
 " And, *fr'd with all his fame, blaze in your eyes* !
 " Crouch'd at his heels, and like fierce hounds leas'd in,
 " Word, fire, and famine, *with impatient grin* !
 " Shou'd, fawning dreadful ! but for orders stay,
 " And, at his nod, *start, horrible ! away* !"
 No barren tale t' amuse, our scene imparts,
 But points example at your kindling hearts.
 Mark, in their Dauphin, to our King oppos'd,
 The different genius of the realm expos'd :
 There, the French levity,—vain,—boastful,—loud,
 Dancing in death,—gay,—wanton,—sierce,—and proud.
 Here, with a silent fire, a temper'd heat !
 Calmly resolv'd, our English bosoms beat.
 Art is too poor, to raise the dead, 'tis true,
 But nature does it, by their worth, in you !
 Your blood, that warm'd their veins, still flows the same :
 Still feels your valour and supports their fame.

Oh ! let it waste no more, in civil jar :
 But flow, for glorious fame, in foreign war.

April 20,

THE BEE,

LITERARY WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER,

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 1791.

To the Editor of the Bee.

En quis confervimus agros.

Vixit Ecl. 1.

Sir,

Now that the eyes of all Europe are turned towards France, allow me to call your attention for a little, to the labourers of the ground in that kingdom. Every benevolent heart will rejoice to hear that their condition is likely to be improved, in consequence of the late revolution. It will however signify little to them, that the natural rights of men are defined with metaphysical precision, or that certain humiliating services and distinctions have been abolished, if the purchasers of the crown and church lands are at liberty to exercise their *rights*, without any limitation on avarice or caprice. The husbandman ought to deprecate all violent changes of property, and to wish for a landlord who has wisdom to see that his own interest is inseparably connected with the prosperity of his tenants.

Vol. II

N n

The part he is to act towards them, is as difficult to be regulated by human laws, as charity, mercy, or the other duties of imperfect obligation. Happy is it for all concerned, when ancient habits, honest prejudices, and pride of character, counteract the spirit of selfishness.

In order to guess how far the late convulsions in France are likely to affect this body of people, it would be necessary to know on what footing the crown and church lands are held at present.—Whether the peasants possess on leases, or are only subtenants of persons of better station, who exact rack rent.—The ordinary conditions and endurance of the clergy's leases.—Whether their lands are not commonly lower let, and their farmers better treated than those of the neighbouring country.—Whether in many cases they or their fathers have not been in possession of their farms past all memory.—And whether of late years any striking alteration has taken place in the conduct and temper of the clergy towards their neighbours and dependents.

It is not surprising that the ministers of religion should be hated and despised by those that have drunk deep of the cup of infidelity; but it is a new phenomenon to see simple illiterate men, in the vale of life, casting off with violence all attachment to persons and things accounted sacred. In the present case, one religious system is not opposed to another; neither do we hear that the French prelates of the present day are cruel and intolerant. That luxury and loose morals should prevail among wealthy ecclesiastics, is no new charge; but though these debase the clerical character, they are more apt to produce contempt and pity, than raucous and a levelling spirit. To us that live remote from the scene of action, it seems unaccountable, how, in circumstances nearly similar, the Boors of Flanders and Brabant should be so warmly devoted to their dignified clergy. If it proves the zeal of

the one for the ancient institutions, it also affords a strong presumption, that the other have been just and gentle masters. Perhaps some of your correspondents, who have been abroad, and viewed men and things with a curious eye, may be able to enrich your miscellany with information on the points now in hand.

As human life turns in some measure upon the same principles and passions in all ages, a short sketch of what passed in Scotland on a revolution of the same kind, may not be unacceptable at this juncture. In the 15th, and first part of the 16th centuries, the tenants of the crown, the church, and the barons, were a powerful and respectable body of people, that seem to have held the same place in society, that the smaller proprietors of land now do. It would far exceed the bounds of this letter, to trace the causes, which, from beginnings the most unpromising, and by means seemingly untoward, led to personal freedom, and an endearing connection betwixt master and tenant. In process of time, the being natives * of certain lands ceased to be a mark of bondage, being henceforth regarded as a valuable privilege, which it was dishonourable for the proprietor to violate, or for strangers to covet.

The tenants of the church (to whom at present our strictures will be confined) were perhaps the most highly favoured, and certainly the richest and most industrious. They had no battles to fight, no quarrels to avenge, but those of their country; and in a superstitious age, ecclesiastic censures were a better fence to the fruits of a man's industry, than the laws of the land. Avarice, express or implied, appears in those times to have been a prominent feature in the character of all denominations; but surely the bounty of the clergy was more pure and disinterested than that of the barons, whose tenants frequently served as instruments to gratify the passions of ambition or revenge.

From their rental books and registers, it appears that the prelates had various modes of letting lands, to which, when once adopted, they adhered with little variation. Some of them used *rentals*, a tenure well known to lawyers *, to which the terms *kindness* and *native* tenants are more peculiarly applicable. Their rents were never raised, a *grassum* or fine being paid at certain times. No tenant was removed unless for some gross failure of duty, or by his own consent, which, in the business language of the times, was called his *good will*. When one died, leaving orphans incapable of holding the farm, his successor engaged to give them a suitable portion. The rights of this species of tenants, were in a great measure undefined; the one party seeking no advantage, and the other dreading no change.

Other churchmen gave tacks, either for lives, or a term of years. They sometimes raised their rents, and sometimes took a *grassum* †; but so far as can be collected now, their lands were meant to be let at a moderate rate; and as a strain of favour runs through their tacks; so strangers were anxiously excluded, but in cases which could give no offence. Indeed nothing was long regarded as more base and ignominious, than the taking a man's farm *over his head*, a phrase still common among country people. It was well for tenants, that the manners of the times set some stigma on these intrusions; for in an age of simplicity and sober mindedness, when commerce and colonies were unknown, a *rental* or tack was reckoned no bad provision for the second sons of good families. Did the nature of your work allow it, these positions might be illustrated at great length, from original papers, which would throw much

add. to • Stair, Erskine & Rentalers.

† A *Grassum* in the Scotch dialect, means a fine at entry to a lease. A sort of purchase money given for obtaining the lease, that did not affect the payment of the annual stipulated payment of rents. *Edit.*

light upon manners and customs *. In short, whatever might have been the demerits of the prelates in James V.'s reign, their conduct as landlords does them high honour, and like charity, ought to cover a multitude of sins.

About the middle of the 15th century †, the first law passed to enable the King, the prelates, and the barons upon certain conditions, to let lands to tenants in *feu farms*, or perpetual lease. Although no measure could be better calculated, both to improve the country, and to make the husbandman rich and independent, yet for near half a century, very few of any denomination took the benefit of it. The enormous expence and trouble of obtaining confirmations of church feus from the Pope's legates, deterred that class of people from applying. Indeed it was the less necessary, that they had entire confidence in the honour and good will of their masters.

The new notions in religion which the vigorous administration of her father had repressed severely, made a rapid progress during Queen Mary's minority, especially after the murder of Cardinal Bethune. In a very sensible, though singular book, published in 1548, *Scotia* is personized, and introduced addressing her two sons the spiritual and temporal estates ‡. “*Ze twa ar lyike cattes and dogges, barkand at uthers; therefor is nocht ane of zou better nor ane uther.*” She then proceeds in very pathetic terms to warn the clergy of their danger, which could only be averted by

* Nothing can be more suitable to the nature of this work, than a communication of facts that tend to illustrate the manners and customs of any people; and the ingenious writer of these observations will much oblige the Editor, by communicating, when convenient, such particulars as he shall see proper on this subject. These will be best suited to the nature of this miscellany, if they be thrown into separate dissertations. In this way they may be brought into bounds. EDIT.

† 1457. c. 71.

‡ Scotland's complaint p. 117. See Pinkert, ancient poems, Introduction, p. 171. Vol. II. p. 543.

amending their lives, and doing their duty conscientiously. No wonder then that a violent change should take place in men's views and temper. The church tenants, who used to idolize their masters, beheld them now with horror and contempt. Favoured with what appeared to them a republication of the gospel, in its original purity, they spurned temporal considerations which interfered with the truth. On the other hand, the churchmen, whose prejudices accorded with their interest, were exceedingly provoked at a conduct, which neither gentleness nor severity could correct. Soured in their tempers, and apprehensive of some fatal convulsion at hand, a number of them granted, in a most irregular manner, feu-rights to their relations and friends, and in some noted instances, to their natural children*. The odium of this measure fell however wholly on the granters; for in several instances, the receivers were men highly popular.

When the storm broke at last on the church with resistless fury, it appeared to have no friends, except a few families devoted to the court. Even its own tenants, who, next to the incumbents, were likely to be the greatest sufferers, either took an active part in the work of desolation, or beheld it with perfect indifference†. But as soon as peace was restored, the selfishness and greed of the principal reformers were displayed without any disguise. Upon conveyances from the prelates, or as *commendators*, they laid hold of the temporalities of benefices: and had they persevered in the system of their predecessors, the change would have been generally acceptable. Instead of this, they proceeded with indecent hurry to turn out the old possessors that would not submit to their terms. Though this conduct cannot be justified, it may be accounted

* A particular proof of this fact will be a piece of interesting information. From the manner in which this transaction was managed, much light will be thrown upon the spirit of the times. Edit.

† Pitcottie hist. Edit. 1778. p. 316.

for : Men who have succeeded in violating one set of rights, are not likely to stop short, as long as passion and self-interest are their monitors. By a most unsequential way of reasoning, they sought to involve the tenants in the ruin of their masters. Indeed, claims often founded on the immemorial practice of men, where persons and offices were equally hated and despised, were now looked on with an unfavourable eye by the persons that held their estates. To tacks regularly executed, there could be no objection ; but numbers of tenants who once imagined they stood on a footing no less secure, were ill prepared for a contest. So long as the clergy continued all powerful, there were few disputes between them and their people ; and of course a set of questions had never received a legal decision, particularly that very important one, how far tenants were entitled to prescribe against their lord, upon immemorial possession. And as the manner of doing business betwixt master and tenants was loose and indefinite, it is not surprising, that after the reformation, the judges should give that point against the tenant, in direct opposition to the practice of the English courts. * It is however well known, that in the 12th century, when most of the abbeyes were founded, the laws of the two kingdoms were nearly the same ; and nothing could resemble an English churchman more, in his mode of management, than a Scottish one. But from this time forth, it seems to have been the great wish of lawyers † and proprietors to circumscribe the titles of Rentallers or kindly tenants within narrow limits. Though the laity at this time were almost as kind and beneficent to their old tenants, as the clergy had been, yet the commendators and feuars were mostly unacquainted with the persons and connections of the old possessors. Besides, at all times, in case of a breach between them and their people, they set no bounds to their wrath and resentment.

* Craig de feud. p. 93. 24. Black. Comment. B. II. c. 6.

† Craig de feud. p. 272. 24. 1587. c. 68.

Meanwhile, the poor tenants (as they usually styled themselves) made loud complaints of the treatment. And as they had been mostly active and useful instruments in putting down the hierarchy, they had an equitable claim to be, at least, no losers by the revolution. Neither was it the interest of a new government, beset with enemies at home and abroad, to offend so numerous a body of faithful adherents, at a time when (to speak the language of the 15th century) *tacks and steadings* were accounted a most valuable article of property, *. There was also some reason to dread, that the tenants of the Baron, might be disposed to consider it as a common cause. And therefore, to still these popular ferment, the Privy Council first †, and afterwards Parliament, took some steps to give the possessors of these lands a temporary relief. The unsettled state of the kingdom, while governed by regents, and the perpetual dread of some counter-revolution, proved a better safe-guard to tenants, than acts of Parliament, which it was the interest of the whole aristocracy to violate or evade. But as the titles of both commendators and feuars were mostly liable to challenge, it behoved them to act with some degree of moderation, for fear of provoking any general combination. They therefore found it better policy to settle matters with the old possessors, in the best way they could, and to turn out only such as had been confessedly imprudent. Various means would be resorted to, in order to soothe or bully these people into compliance. Some of them, however, found protectors in persons of rank and influence, with whom they were connected by ties of blood or faction; whilst others kept possession in virtue of leases executed with every legal solemnity. But it would seem, that the

* Keith's hist. 1567, c. 77.

† The author of Scotland's complaint very gravely tells his readers, that when the Lacedaemonians wished to ruin Pericles in the esteem of his countrymen, they directed their generals who were laying waste the Athenian territories, to spare his *tacks and steadings*.

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major part found it expedient to make new bargains. There can hardly be a doubt, that in the period between the reformation and James the VI.'s assuming the reins of government, many instances of oppression and injustice took place; and even the tenants that came off best, met with many things to alarm and harass them.

Things, at last, were brought to some hearing. The commendators had interest to procure the abbeys to be converted into temporal lordships; and the feu-rights, surreptitiously obtained upon the eve of the reformation, were confirmed, under certain conditions. In the act * with regard to the latter, there is a most equitable clause in favours of the old possessors. Yet so wedded are men to ancient modes, that it was with some reluctance the rentallers of Glasgow and Paisley accepted of feu-rights, though that was doing them full justice. The bulk of their brethren were however less fortunate, being obliged, sooner or later, to submit to such terms as could be had. There were some circumstances greatly in their favour: Cruelty to tenants, or squeezing of rents, were by no means the vices of that age; but the new proprietors had often friends and dependents of their own, whom they wished to provide in farms. The great ambition of landlords in those days, was to have a set of tenants entirely subservient to their pleasure; for a man's importance was still estimated by the number and spirit of his followers, not by the sum total of his rent-roll. And hence they who yielded early, and with a good grace, were received upon the same footing with their own tenants, whose rents were moderate, and treatment good.

In this situation, matters continued till towards the close of that century, when the views and policy of landlords underwent an almost total change. The increased power of the crown, and the prospect of perpe-

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* 1384, c. 7.

tual peace with England, greatly diminished the weight of the barons in the political scale. It was therefore no longer necessary for them to attach a body of brave unscrupulous retainers in their persons and interests, by giving them cheap farms. On that occasion, tenants in high favour, or sufficiently provident, obtained beneficial feus, whilst the rest were glad to take tacks for a term of years; but though they generally paid much higher rents than formerly, that was more than compensated by the prosperity of the times.

It was exceedingly fortunate for tenants, that the downfall of popery did not happen in times of speculation and licentious credit like the present, when mighty nations are on the verge of bankruptcy. Had it been possible to find purchasers for the abbey-lands, the old possessors would have seen, that the yoke of mortgaged men was infinitely more grievous than that of the nobility and gentry, to whom, by the bounty, or rather the prodigality of government, these rich spoils were freely conveyed. A sale, at an adequate price, to be paid into the treasury, would, in all likelihood, have reduced a respectable body of men, *all at once*, to be hewers of wood and drawers of water to a motely set of adventurers, from whom little liberality could have been expected. The doubts and difficulties in which the titles to church-lands were involved for a number of years, gave the tenants time to soothe prejudices, and to form new connections, which, if less permanent than the old, proved very useful. Neither a free constitution, nor good laws, can secure that class of people from one species of oppression, which is the more severe, that it hardly admits of any remedy. The quantity of rent that ought to be paid, is a point so exceedingly nice, that it is seldom expedient for the legislature to interfere.

The vast estates of the Scottish clergy did not, as was fondly imagined, either enrich the crown, or ease the subject. That they might have been applied to excel-

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lent purposes, will not be disputed. A yeomanry might have been established, that should have cultivated the soil with all the ardour and success of our English neighbours. Some of the great monasteries might have been converted into splendid colleges, with suitable provisions for the learned and contemplative. And the rest would have served for schools, hospitals, and places of retreat for the aged and unfortunate; who, though born to better prospects, are often left to languish out the evening of life in poverty and neglect. Vows and confinement to the cloyster being done away, innocent freedom, temperate meals, the duties and pleasures of rational religion, would have succeeded to the mummeries of superstition, and the luxurious fullness of an Abbot's table. We must, however, confess, that there are few ages or countries, in which such plans would not have been esteemed visionary and utopian. At least, it would have required less factious times, and less greedy courtiers, than those of James the VI. As the protestant ministers sought little for themselves, so (to do them justice) they reproached the grantees of their party with sacrilege and rapacity, in appropriating to themselves what in truth belonged to the public and to the poor. It was perhaps the only part of their exhortations, to which the great were disposed to lend a deaf ear.

What use will be made of the property of the French ecclesiastics; whether it will be steadily and honestly applied to the exigencies of the state; or whether it may not rather prove the means of enriching an ignoble junto, and their myrmidons, are questions which time alone can solve. But let not the friends of liberty be over-sanguine, and expect miracles from the disciples of Voltaire and Helvetius; or imagine that they will be proof against temptations, which, in an age less frivolous, and less luxurious, proved too hard for the virtue of John Knox's associates. Among all the plans of reform which the national assembly of France have under consideration,

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may the real interest of the labourers of the ground be studied and pursued! Every husbandman reduced to poverty and distress, by the tyranny or caprice of kings or demagogues, is, in truth, a small subtraction from the aggregate of human happiness. I am,

Yours, &c.

• A GENTLEMAN FARMER.

Remarks on some of the Phenomena that occur in Frost, and on the different Forms that the Crystals of frozen Water assume.

NEITHER have the phenomena of freezing been hitherto accurately described, nor have the causes of many of these phenomena been accounted for in a satisfactory manner. Our knowledge of this branch of natural philosophy seems to be as yet very confined. The first step towards its enlargement will be to mark all the facts that occur respecting it with accuracy and fidelity. The few following therefore, that have been picked up from various sources, are submitted to the examination of the reader.

The following letter is copied from the Journal de Paris of 27th March.

"In the periodical work intitled *the Cultivator*, is published a method of preserving fruit-trees from being frozen in the spring, indicated by M. le Chev. de Reimnberg. It consists of a cord interlaced with the principal branches of the tree, whose extremity is plunged into a vessel containing water.

"I have repeated this experiment, which succeeded with me. In consequence of this, I have engaged the Frere Norbet, gardener of the Chartreuse to adopt

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" that method ; and for eight days he has repeated it
" with success.

" Here is the result. If the vessel in which the
" cord terminated is covered with ice, the thickness
" of two lines (about a fourth of an inch) the water
" contained in a similar vessel placed beside it, without
" any cord, is not frozen at all. If the vessel without
" the cord be covered with ice, one line thick, that
" on the vessel with the cord in it, is three or four
" lines thick ; so that from this experiment, it would
" seem, that the cord may be considered as a conduc-
" tor of cold †.

" I here lay aside all theory, to confine myself only
" to the phenomena. If the application is such as is
" announced, if this conductor preserves fruit trees
" from being frozen in the spring, which kills the
" flower, this simple process will be of great utility."

Signed Ant. Alex. Cadet (DE VAUX) de la société royale
d'Agriculture, &c.

Phenomena of Freezing Water.

It is some years since the gardeners of Britain were
acquainted in some measure with the *useful* part of
this invention ; for it has been found a very effectual
method of preserving fruit trees on walls from being
frozen in the Spring, to cover them during the night
with a net, nearly in the same way as for preserving
cherries from being eaten by birds, when they begin
to ripen. This method of preserving the blossom of
fruit trees, I have been told, has been found to be
very effectual.

But the most singular peculiarity in the experiment
of Mr. Cadet, is the phenomenon of the freezing of
water being accelerated by the cord being dipt in it,
which seems here to act as a conductor of frost. Sup-
posing this fact to be ascertained, it next will require

† Or more strictly speaking, as a conductor of frost. *Edis.*

to be adverted to, whether the protecting quality of the cord be augmented or diminished by the end of it being received into a vessel of water; whether the same effect would not be produced if it were allowed merely to touch the earth, or to be suspended without touching any object; or, whether, like an electric conductor, its operation may be entirely prevented, by its terminating on certain substances; and if so, what are they? This part of the experiment, which respects the freezing of the water, opens new views that ought to be investigated. English gardeners have not observed any peculiarities respecting their nets, nor have I heard that they experienced any variations of effect; whether they be entirely suspended, or whether they rest with their bottoms on the earth, or in water.

It is long since it has been remarked that loose straws or small twigs of trees, or other similar substances, that are very susceptible of injury by frost, served much more effectually to protect them from it, than a much thicker covering of more solid substances. It does not appear, however, that these act as conductors of frost, in the common acceptation of that word; for we observe that the objects around have been more severely frozen than elsewhere.

One fact respecting these substances seems still more strongly to militate against their acting as conductors of cold or frost. In shallow pieces of water, covered with tall reeds, or with flags, even when growing upright, it is always observable that the ice is much weaker at the bottom of these than in other places, even when the frost has happened during a perfect calm, when no part of this effect could be attributed to the agitation. I have often seen that among the roots of these reeds, not a particle of ice was to be seen, when all the rest of the lake was frozen over. In this case, they seem to act as repellers of frost, exactly in the same manner they are known to do when strowed upon the surface of the ground.

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These hints are suggested for the farther investigation of the curious observers of the phenomena of nature.

The various forms that the chrystals of water assume when frozen in different circumstances, is another subject of curious investigation. In general, it is well known, that they shoot out upon the surface of water, from any solid body to which they adhere, as a base in long spiculæ, at an angle of about 60 degrees. From these first spiculæ, as a base, others project in the same manner, and so on till the whole be finished. But after a thin sheet of ice is once formed over the whole surface of the water, I have not heard by what species of organization its thickness is augmented. This is another subject of investigation.

The organization of an icicle is different from either of these; nor has it been hitherto, that I know of, ascertained. In like manner, the phenomena that occur in the freezing of a bottle of water, are curious, and seem to differ in several respects from the former. Generally the freezing seems to begin at the sides; from whence needle-like substances are shot out in all directions through the whole, upwards and downwards, as well as horizontally; sometimes also a nucleus of open fibrous needle-like substances, crossing each other in all directions, is formed in the heart of the bottle. But these phenomena have not been particularly adverted to.

Water, when absorbed in moist loose earth, of a soft and spongy texture, assumes a very different form, when reduced to a solid state by cold, from any of the former. In these circumstances, the drops of water seem to be attracted towards each other, without coalescing, so as to make the chrystals shoot up in a close congeries of needle-like spiculæ. These needle-like spiculæ are united into bunches of greater or smaller dimensions, according to circumstances, with intervals between them. Never that I have observed, is a single

spicula seen by itself, nor are these needle-like spicules ever united, so as not to leave many openings between them. They are always joined into bunches, which are separated from each other by bare intervals, where no crystals are found.

These needle-like crystals shoot up quite perpendicularly from the earth, carrying upon their tops some earth, so as to appear to the eye, when viewed from above, as detached pieces of frozen earth. If one of these pieces be taken from its place, and narrowly examined, if the frost has been tolerably intense, and of no more than one night's standing, the crystals are found to be very pure and transparent, without any joints in them, and tolerably long. I have sometimes seen them about two inches in length. The earth at top is firmly frozen to them, and cannot be separated from the ice but by breaking. (See Miscellaneous plate Fig. 5. A.) At the bottom, the columns separate from the soil below without any difficulty; and the base is quite even and flat. A small stratum of earth always adheres to their bottom; but that is usually very thin.

If the frost had been of two days continuance, there are then two series of columns, one exactly above the other, which are separated by a thin layer of earth; so that it appears this second class of columns has been shot out from the earth directly below it; and as this last rests upon the same base of earth as the former, the surface of ground upon the top is of course pushed up by the columns still higher than formerly. This second joint of columns is always shorter than the first, and adheres firmly to it, unless perhaps, when the second night's frost has been greatly more intense than the first; though I dare not affirm that even in this case the lower joint of columns will be longer than the first, having never observed an example of this sort, though I think it probably might occur. (See Fig. 5. B.)

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In the same manner, a fresh joint of columns shoots up the third night of the frost, raising the two former joints above it, and the same the fourth, and succeeding nights. (See Fig. 5. C. & D.), an addition being made of so much every night the frost continues. But as these additions become shorter and shorter each night, during the continuance of the frost, and as every joint is separated from the former by a layer of earth, in proportion as the joints shorten, the quantity of earth contained in the column becomes greater; so that after the frost has continued a considerable time, the lower joints of these columns become so short, as not to be discernible, and the base looks like a piece of earth only.

I believe this kind of icy columns have no where been described but by myself; though the phenomena that are produced by them in agriculture are well known, and their operations, in some cases, particularly destructive to the farmer, on crops of clover, and other tap-rooted plants, which are by this means *spewed* out of the ground, as farmers usually express it. The way in which this *spewing* out is effected, will be now easily understood.

When a series of icy columns is formed near to any plant that has a broad crown at the top of the root, as clover, it usually happens that two or more of these columns attach themselves firmly at top to the crown of the plant. When therefore the columns are pushed upwards, they of course draw the root from the soil below, and carry it up with them. In this case, one of two things must happen, viz. 1st. either the fibres of the small root must be broken off, so as to allow it to be drawn out entire, leaving only its *chevelure*, as the French would call it, or small capillary fibres detached from it in the soil: Or, 2d, If the large fibres of the root divaricate much, so as not to admit of being drawn easily upward, the thick part of the root is snapped off from the under part, which remains in the ground. In the last case, the death of the plant is in-

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evitable; and even in the first case, for one that will again strike root, hundreds must die.

These icy columns I have sometimes seen not less than five or six inches in height, when the whole earth that was contained in that column would not amount to half an inch. Of course it must happen, that should a stalk of clover have been lifted up on the shoulder of these columns, when a thaw comes, the earth will subside, and leave the root quite bare upon the surface of the ground, where it must inevitably perish. Such are the causes of that phenomenon that has been called *spewing out* of plants; and in this way strong tap rooted plants, even the narrow leaved dock, are frequently destroyed.

Fibrous rooted plants, however, are in much less danger of thus perishing than the others. If these especially are very closely matted together, like some kind of grasses, the crop is perhaps sometimes rather benefited than hurt by this means. In that case, the sward itself is often not broken at all; but the number of columns below acting all equally, it is raised up upon their top, with a stratum of unbroke earth adhering to the root, (See fig. 5. D.) the whole surface is thus hove; and when a thaw comes, it sinks again gently down to its former level, where the small fibrous roots, meeting with the fine particles of earth that had been entangled in the columns, strike in it very freely, and prosper abundantly. Hence it happens, that in grass grounds of a spongy texture, where the sward is close, if you attempt to raise up a sod, after a continued frost, you find, that it peels off with the greatest facility at a certain thickness, and can be made by no art to rise then to a greater or less thickness.

Hence also we see the propriety of settling such grounds, by drawing a roller across it, as soon after frost as possible, so that presses the sward firmly down, and facilitates the striking of the roots. Wheat is

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often thrown out, and much more frequently damaged by this means, than fibrous rooted grasses, because the roots are less matted together, and have not had time to form a sward. A gentle pressure with a roller must frequently prove beneficial to this crop in these circumstances, for obvious reasons.

I beg the reader will take notice, that all that has been said respecting these icy columns, applies only to fields consisting of a very loose spongy soil; in mossy soils in particular, and that kind of spongy earth peculiar to moorlands, these phenomena are most distinctly perceptible. In fields that have been long cultivated, of a loamy vegetable earth, though even very soft, they are not so perceptible; and, in another case, the phenomena of water freezing in mould, is extremely different. I shall conclude this essay with one example of this sort, which will serve to teach the young experimenter caution as to drawing general conclusions from particular cases.

On a farm which was under my possession for a good many years, were several fields, which consisted of a pure friable clay, perfectly free from sand, or other gritty mixture of any sort. This clay, when exposed to frost, was crumbled down by that means into a fine powder, more nearly resembling meal than any thing else; but its surface was never holed up in the manner above described, nor did I ever see the smallest tendency to an icy column upon it. On examining a piece of this clay during a hard frost, it was found, upon being forcibly broken asunder by a hammer, to contain, through its whole body, a great number of small cubical crystals of water, seemingly entirely detached from each other, and arranged in no order that I could perceive. These cubes were so small as to require a magnifying lens to be perceived distinctly; but they were so numerous as to give a kind of hoary appearance to the red clay in which they were bedded. I make no farther remarks here, than barely to state

the fact, as a curious instance of the diversity of forms that watery congelations assume in different circumstances. As clay and stone marbles fall down in the same manner after frost, it is probable some phenomena of a similar nature would be discoverable in them.

In the miscellaneous plate, fig. 5. is given a slight delineation of the icy columns above described. A, fig. 5. is a set of these columns of one night old; B the same as of two nights old; C ditto three nights old; D represents them as of longer continuance, and as carrying upon their top a sod of matted fibrous rooted plants; E represents a stalk of clover, the root of which has been broke over, and left in the ground, the icy column on each side of it bearing it quite out of the ground; F is the same stalk of clover perfectly naked and defenceless, after the columns have been melted by a thaw.

Unto the Editor of the Bee.

*The humble Petition and Complaint of the Subtenants of
a Northern County in Scotland;*

SUB-HUMBLY SHEWETH,

THAT though your petitioners are not a very respectable, they have a just claim to be considered as an useful class of men. Apprehending themselves deprived of their natural rights, both as men, and as free-born subjects of a mild and liberal government, and hearing that you are always ready to espouse the cause of freedom, and to promote the good of society, they are encouraged to solicit your assistance in their distressed situation.

The proprietors of the lands which your petitioners possess, for reasons best known to themselves, common-

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PETITION OF SUBTENANTS.

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ly let their lands in large lots to principal tacksmen, with powers to them to sublet to your petitioners as much of their tacks as they do not labour themselves. As these tacksmen generally overbid one another, the highest offerer seldom fails to be preferred to the lease, without any regard to your petitioners, who may shortly be transferred from a gentleman of feeling, to a capricious tyrant. Your petitioners are commonly introduced to their new masters, by an augmentation of their rents, very often without consulting their experience of what their lands can produce, or without any regard to the circumstances of your petitioners. It is well known that in many instances, your petitioners bear the principal burden of their master's tack-duty; and that if the tacksmen has not his own farm entirely free, he has it at a mere trifle. Perhaps it would not be a deviation from the truth to say that he has a considerable overplus of rent. But the great grievance of your petitioners is, that while their rents are raised higher, they are not allowed the benefit of their own industry; that when they undertake to become tenants, they are literally slaves; that they have not only to provide a high rent, but to subject themselves to the intolerable servitude of performing any menial office the new master is pleased to impose upon them. There is no particular department in the process of agriculture on their extensive farms from the first stage of it, until the victual be delivered at market, in which your petitioners are not employed. There is no work so servile, whether dictated by the whim or avarice of the task-master, that they dare refuse. How under the canopy of heaven is it possible for your petitioners to do justice to their farms, or give the necessary attention and support to their families, when they are obliged to obey the call of their masters every day in the year that he is pleased to employ them, without meat or fees, and perhaps feel the smart of a cudgel if they dare to remonstrate. If there

should be but a few favourable days in a busy season; these, with themselves and labouring cattle, must be devoted to the master's farm, let the consequence be never so fatal to their own. By these means, many industrious and well disposed families have been ruined; and as the waste places are commonly added to the tackman's farm, the burden of the remaining subtenants become proportionally higher. The consequences of this cruel usage are very fatal to your petitioners. Their labouring cattle often fall sacrifices to hard labour and long carriages; themselves are dispirited with abject slavery, and discouraged from improving their farms; their morals are corrupted; such as are not already ruined, are for the most part reduced to the verge of beggary, and their children are brought up in slavery and ignorance.

In answer to your petitioners complaint, it may be urged, that many tacksmen are men of feeling and benevolence, much better superiors than some proprietors are; that many subtenants are in a comfortable situation, and that such as are not have liberty to remove, and provide for themselves.

But to this your petitioners reply, that all these hardships and cruelties of which they complain, do actually exist (particular instances of which would fill a volume); that some proprietors being as oppressive as tacksmen, is no alleviation to their distress; that it is a very bad establishment, which admits of a tacksmen to become the scourge of the tenants who cultivate the lands, and are absolutely necessary both for the proprietors and tacksmen; and their liberty to remove, to such as have it, can avail but little, after they are reduced to want, and know not whither to go.

Your petitioners do not expect their emancipation all at once; nor do they now request that the present method of letting land should be entirely abandoned, though such a measure would be very desirable. But without asking too much, or even incurring the dis-

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a busy season; cattle, must be the consequence of the means, many have been ruined; added to the remaining subtenants. The consequence of your petition is all sacrifices to themselves are dispirited from improvement; such as the best part reduced to ruin are brought

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pleasure of any one that by any thing offends delicacy or respect, your petitioners entertain most ardent wishes, and a fond expectation, that upon a proper representation of their grievances, the proprietors would condescend to consider them worthy of a hearing; that they would interpose their authority, at least to mitigate the intolerable services upon their estates; and that they would take security of the tacksmen to deliver their subtenants upon the whole in as good condition as they received them, which themselves would be careful to do, respecting their labouring cattle. For these concessions of the proprietors there is an immediate call; and as they would only restrain the rapaciousness of a few, the consequences of them would be advantageous to all concerned.

May it therefore please you Mr. Editor, to lay the particular distressed situation of your petitioners before the public, that the proprietors, many of whom are out of this country, may come to the knowledge of what your petitioners are persuaded they have hitherto in a great measure been ignorant of, and what your petitioners have neither resolution nor confidence to make known to them personally, having often failed in the attempt, by means of the tacksmen. And your petitioners have no doubt but the proprietors will find it their interest and honour to remove evils which are disgraceful to a country, boasting of liberty, and are subversive of the natural rights of mankind.

Signed in name of the distressed part of the fraternity, by
A SUBTENANT.

If the Editor's recommendation could lend any additional force to this very modest and sensible Petition, it should not be wanting. Violent innovations he always disapproves of; and therefore concurs with

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the petitioners in thinking, that the change should be gradual; and if this change be made with judgment, he is well persuaded that it would redound greatly to the emolument of all concerned. The best improved estate he knows in that part of the country, where servitude of this kind generally prevails, is one in which the proprietor has freed the subtenants from this thralldom, and has taken them under his own immediate protection. They look upon him as their best friend, and he reaps an augmentation of income, much greater than others are able to obtain, which is given to him with the perfect good will of all the parties concerned; and I verily believe that no national calamity could be reckoned so great by the tenants of this estate, as the death of their landlord.

To the Editor of the Bee.

Review of the First Volume of the Bee.

Sir,

AMONGST the multiplicity of avocations which must daily absorb the attention of an Editor of a work professedly published for the instruction and amusement of the public, perhaps none of them may be more worthy of an impartial attention, than a review of the past Volume.

It is said in a modern writer, that the author who would wish to attain to accuracy of distinction and justness of sentiment, must sometimes sit as the judge upon his own works. It is with some degree of diffidence I would wish to call the attention of a man who deservedly stands high in the opinion of the world, to an object of this kind. In the mean time, if I mention a few remarks that occurred to me, I hope it may not be disapproved.

The poetry in general, as might have been expected, in a new work, has not attained much above a mediocrity. However, the versification of that address to Dr. R—, seems to be finely adapted to the subject, flowing easy and exhilarating, without the fault of too many essays of the kind, which are spun out to a tiresome length.

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Your subscribers are certainly in your debt, for that valuable fragment, The notices concerning the Moors; as the introduction is beautiful, and the inscriptions dictated by that piety and simplicity so conspicuous in the eastern manner. The story of the mole by the young observer, is curious, and seems to be set in a clear light by your correspondent D. L. M.

But when speaking of Dr. Smith's sentiments on the impolicy of granting bounties on the exportation of corn, does not that just observation of the Editor's, charging the Doctor with arguing against the rise from the abuse of bounties, militate against himself, when applied to his own observations on the present bankrupt laws, in Article 9th, &c. ? There he endeavours to prove, that because sometimes a fraudulent bankrupt may get a discharge by law, to the hurt of his creditors, that therefore no legal discharge, as is now common from the Court of Session, ought to be granted to any bankrupt whatever.

In a commercial country such as this, it is well known, that from the present extensive plan of commerce, misfortunes are sometimes unavoidable, and communicate themselves in a diversity of channels, proportionate to the extent the trade has been carried on; and it would be cruel to add to a bankruptcy, that greatest of all misfortunes to an honest man in trade, after having delivered up his all, the power of endless prosecutions, on the part of every disappointed creditor, who might think or flatter himself his case was harder than any of the rest. If the unfortunate debtor did not by this vexatious mode so little guarded, entirely lose his relish for a life so apt to be imbittered by every creditor who had been disappointed in his prospects of gain, he would at least be no way anxious about preserving it, by any extraordinary exertions of his own †.

† Experience is worth a thousand arguments in cases of this sort. I trust to the general sympathy of mankind, and the obloquy that would

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But under all these disadvantages, perhaps he might find friends to take him by the hand, and again introduce him into the world, either by furnishing him with a little property, or getting him credit to trade upon. But in order again to ruin him, if he has the hardiness to begin upon this footing, a clause is introduced in the new regulations, whereby any former creditor whose claim is not fully liquidated, may either insist, or prosecute for full payment, or bring on a new bankruptcy, and under that rank equally with others, to the manifest prejudice of the new creditors *

Together with the checks, imposed by a trial by a jury, this, no doubt, would prevent the fraudulent bankrupt from ever shining in high life. But it would be putting him nearly on the same footing of an outlaw, and with this difference, that the honest, unfortunate bankrupt might be included in the deplorable consequence of a radical deficiency of the law †.

It seldom occurs, that a man in business can work at any mechanic or other business for his daily support; the trade he has been accustomed to, he views with a partial eye; then, why repress his lawful exertions, by the operation of a law, destructive of the ends of industry, viz. gaining a small competence for himself and fa-

accompany any undue acts of severity to a man who was generally respected honest and unfortunate. In Holland, where the laws against fraudulent bankrupts are much more severe than is here proposed, and where no power can compel any man to grant an involuntary discharge, it is well known that an upright debtor who has been unfortunate, is treated with much more mildness, and helped into business again, much more readily by his creditors, than in any other country in Europe. Where men are satisfied, they cannot be imposed upon, they are universally inclined to act with a generous liberality. *Edit.*

* The writer has read this clause carefully. No former creditor, unless for a new debt, can ever bring on a new bankruptcy. Indeed, if he could, the aim of the clause in question would thus be frustrated. See Article 16th. *Edit.*

† This was answered in our last. *Edit.*

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mily *. If this part of the kingdom had been under the regulations proposed for a law, for twenty years past, perhaps we might never have had it in our power to record a recent instance of honour and integrity, which would grace the highest character.

A man, now eminent in the mercantile world, formerly unfortunate, and had now gained by fair trade a handsome competency, lately called his former creditors together, paid them their full demand, for the former failure, to the amount of several thousand pounds, for which he received thanks of the whole company †.

The persons, who can turn their hand successfully to any line of life, other than what they have been accustomed to, are few; they are still fewer, who are willing to do it: But there are many with whom the forcing them to abandon their former habits and occupations, to engage either in labour or a servile station, would be regarded as the deepest degradation; which would naturally induce such a dejection and lassitude, as would

* The argument employed here, seems to me to militate strongly in favour of the proposed law. Men in trade are sometimes unfortunate; but what is the misfortune that can be least guarded against by an attentive man in business? Unforeseen bankruptcies, where the stroke may be so unexpected, and the dividend so small, that no merchant can compute with certainty at any time, what his real funds are.—And what is the cause of these great bankruptcies? A wild spirit of speculation in precarious branches of trade,—a desire to make rich with too much haste,—and a spirit for high living. And what is it that cherishes a taste for these extravagances and hurtful projects? A blameable facility in obtaining credit, and the prospect of being little worse, perhaps much better after a bankruptcy, than before. Thus do we, by a fair chain of reasoning, trace those misfortunes the objector deploras to the very measure for which he contends. *Edi.*

† Instances of this kind, if I am not misinformed, occur more frequently in Holland than in Britain; and it naturally ought to do so. A man feels more grateful for a service granted voluntarily than by compulsion; and there is nothing insinuated in the bill to prevent any persons who incline, to grant a voluntary discharge. And it is believed, there are few creditors who could have the face, if they had even the heart, to refuse a discharge to a debtor who had been unfortunate, whose conduct had been candid and honourable in every respect. *Edi.*

bring on extreme poverty. If yet there is any spirit left, the transition will be too easy to crimes, and those perhaps of the greatest magnitude; it is not improbable, from the gradual operation of these regulations for twenty years, that the legislature would have to turn their attention to this law, as being the nursery of greater crimes than it was meant to prevent.

The present bankrupt act for Scotland, as it stands, is preferable to the proposed regulations; the debtor and the creditor are there treated on nearly equal terms.

The debtor, where nothing unfair appears, is at liberty to attend his examinations, which are not made for the interest of any single creditor, but by the factor for the interest of the whole. The subject being vested in the factor or trustee, is by this means prevented from being dilapidated by one creditor getting 20 s., another 15 s., and perhaps the rest but 5 s. in the pound of their debt *. During the debtor's examination, he is entitled to a protection from the Court of Session on proper application, and may get it enlarged from time to time, if necessary, and may get a discharge soon after the second dividend; if he can get four fifths in number and value of his creditors to sign a petition to the court for that purpose. Where the mode pointed out by the act is followed, it will be no easy matter for the fraudulent bankrupt to deceive his creditors †. Together with a

* In all these respects, the proposed regulation is precisely the same with that here specified.—Before one criticises, he certainly should read with so much attention, as to make himself fully master of the subject proposed. See Article 15th. Edit.

† And does this gentleman mean seriously to maintain, that no fraudulent bankruptcies have taken place under the operation of this law? Let him open his eyes, and look around him; has he never seen a debtor, who paid out one shilling in the pound to his creditors, launching out into business anew, immediately after this dividend, in such a stile as shewed he had the command of many thousand pounds; and living in a state of elegance, that none of his creditors, perhaps, can ever hope to be able to imitate?—Whether ought such a man to be encouraged and protected, or his honest creditors? The writer seems to forget, that what he thus gets, they lose; and that if his stock be augmented, their stock in trade must be diminished. Edit.

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good many salutary regulations, the present act, like every other human production, may have its defects; which, if properly removed, and other clauses added when necessary, might make it as nearly perfect as perhaps the present state of society would admit. A few of what appear to me to be defects in the present bankrupt law for Scotland, are these:

It is a general objection against it, that it is attended with a great deal of unnecessary expence, delay, and trouble.

Ought not a law, made for the security of property and facility of recovering and distributing it, to be framed with some regard to these particulars?

Could not a statute of bankruptcy or sequestration be taken out against the debtor, as well in an inferior, as in the supreme court of the kingdom?

Might not the dividends be made sooner, where the case admitted of it, than exactly every 12 months; and the whole effects sooner turned into cash, than by the present tedious plan? Without hurting his creditors, could it not be possible, that a debtor might have a discharge sooner than the period of the second dividend, or at least, have the liberty of carrying on business?

If these and a few other defects were removed, perhaps we should not then hear the complaint, that the creditors were obliged to prosecute the debtor in an expensive manner, separately, or come to his own terms with them; because a sequestration, if followed out, would cost fifty pounds or upwards.

These reflections were suggested by the perusal of the new regulations; the spirit of them I almost approve of; and hope, that though we may transiently differ in opinion, we shall join in issue, that any plan calculated to do the most effectual justice between debtor and creditor, is worthy of the public approbation.

I am,

Paisley, March 21, }

Yours, &c.

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POLYBIUS.

If Polybius would take the trouble to inspect in person several prisons in this kingdom, and inquire into the particulars of the prisoners there confined for debt, he would then, and then only, see the propriety, if not the necessity, of some regulations of the kind proposed. Those who never put their heads within the walls of a prison, can have no means of obtaining the information wanted, to enable them to get a just judgment of the case.——Divine Howard! how I reverence thy memory! Of him, indeed, it might be said, "And the cause that he knew not, he searched out." *Edm.*

To the Editor of the Bee.

The following paper, containing an account of a chemical process that may be of great use in manufactures, came to hand too late for being properly inserted into this Number; but that no time might be lost, some other articles that had been previously set, were postponed to give it a place. The Editor will be glad to learn, if the process when carried on at large shall be found to succeed as well as in small trials, and prove sufficiently economical.

Copy of a Letter from the Reverend James Wilson of Stockport, to Mr. R. O. on the decomposition of Glauber's salt, or sulphat of Soda.

SIR,

As such large quantities of Glauber's salt are necessarily made at works where the muriatic acid and Sal Ammoniac are made, I have often thought that it would be an important invention to devise a cheap and easy method, by which the Soda might be obtained pure, or at least in such a state as would render it fit for the purposes of commerce.

In the "Annales de Chimie," Mr. Berthollet has informed us, that he can accomplish this desirable end; but being enjoined to secrecy, he is not at liberty to lay the process before the public.

As soon after this intimation as circumstances would permit, I began to investigate the subject, and after a

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ON GLAUBER'S SALT.

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variety of fruitless trials, was at length successful. I shall not trouble you here with a minute detail of the numerous experiments which I made, but shall only mention such things as appear to be of use in the process.

I took two parts of quicklime, and one of the sulphat of Soda, and exposed them for some time to a strong heat. When I had removed the mass from the fire, and permitted it to cool, I dissolved it in water, and having evaporated the solution, I obtained crystals of a quality highly alkaline. They were formed in a kind of perpendicular direction, and made an angle with the bottom of the vessel, not much less than a right one. With the syrop of violets, they produced a beautiful green colour, which could not easily be distinguished from that which was made by the purified soda of the shops.

But still I was convinced that a considerable part of the vitriolic acid remained: Nay, it was even a matter of doubt with me, whether the alkaline quality was not produced by a part of the acid uniting itself with the lime, and forming selenite, or if it was not principally owing to some part of the lime, which had combined itself with the neutral salt, and thus made the alkaline quality predominant.

I then took of Barytes and Glauber's salt, equal parts by weight, and having kept them some time in fusion, I found that the compound exhibited strong alkaline qualities.

If the Barytes could be easily procured, the method of separating the alkali, now taken notice of, would be the most simple and desirable. But as it is only found in particular situations, the expence of carrying so heavy a body to any considerable distance, would be a powerful and insurmountable bar in the way of using it in great quantities.

Moreover, the vitriolated kind, which I used in my experiments, is so nearly saturated with sulphuric acid,

that it requires a great deal of it to take up the acid, which is found even in a very small portion of Glauber's salt.

Being desirous of finding out a process which could be more generally embraced, I took into consideration the means which are employed to produce Barilla. It appeared to me, that the plant from which it is obtained, is impregnated with a neutral salt, and that in the process of burning, the ashes of the plant do the office of charcoal, of which indeed there is a portion in vegetables, and by combining with the muriatic acid, which is formed by a certain degree of heat, during the decomposition of vegetables.

As acids of various denominations abound in the vegetable kingdom, may we not suppose that pot-ash is already formed in the vegetables, which produce it; but that it remains in a neutral state till set free by incineration.

Pyrotignous acid may be obtained from most kinds of wood; and this by burning is perhaps let loose from its connection with pot-ash. But it may be asserted, that it is formed in the act of combustion by certain elements coming into union with the acidifying part of the air.

It must indeed be acknowledged, that pot-ash has never been produced but by combustion, or by the assistance of the nitric acid; and perhaps, as it has been apprehended, azote enters into the composition of this alkali and soda, as well as into its amoniac.

But however this may be, I proceeded in my experiments, in conformity to the idea which I had of the circumstances by which barilla is produced. Having mixed sixteen parts of the sulphat of soda with one part of charcoal, I brought them into fusion, and by keeping them in that state for some time, I was in hopes that the sulphur would be burnt away, and the alkali left disengaged. But I was much mortified to find that I had only obtained a liver of sulphur. The difficulty then still

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remained of getting the soda sufficiently pure for the purposes of common use.

After trying many schemes, I at length thought of a method, which is no less simple than efficacious.

I dissolved the hepar, and allowed the solution to stand till the sulphur had sunk to the bottom of the vessel. When the solution was clear, I poured it off, evaporated it to dryness, and having mixed the residue with a sixteenth part its weight of chalk, I melted them together, and found that the product bore a considerable resemblance in its appearance to the finest Spanish barilla. The principal difference in its qualities was, that it contained no common salt, which barilla is always found to do. It was so free from sulphur, that silver kept in contact with it for the space of several days, was not in the least changed in its colour.

The chalk not only keeps it from suffering as much by exposure to the air, as it would otherwise do; but it unites in part with the vitriolic acid, which may still have been left, and forms with it an insoluble selenite, so that the alkali is by this process also rendered more pure.

I communicated my method of decomposing Glauber's salt to the Reverend James Headrick of Glasgow, whose philosophical attainments are well known to the circle of his friends, and by them as justly admired. He recommended quicklime to me instead of chalk, and said he believed it was made use of in some alkaline works at Prestonpans.

Lime will be very useful, and perhaps preferable to chalk, when barilla is made for immediate or for home consumption; but it is not so eligible when the alkali must be much exposed to air or moisture, as in that case it is apt to fall into very small pieces. I have now some specimens which were made with chalk above six months ago, and all the changes of weather during that time, have very little altered their appearance.

In making alkali upon a large scale, I would recommend reverberating furnaces, built of brick, after the manner of those which are employed for recovering ashes from the strong lye in which linen cloth has been bucked or boiled.

If these remarks give any useful hints to the world, the author will feel much satisfaction in reflecting on what he has attempted toward elucidating this important subject. Sir,

Yours, &c.

Character of the Earl of Bute.

THE Earl of Bute's temper was reclusive and reserved. The sciences to which he was attached were those that consist in cold and minute investigation. He was hesitating, prevaricating, and timid; the qualities which form the discriminating character of a student. The library, and not the cabinet, was the scene for which nature had destined him.

J. R.

William G. Grenville.

THIS gentleman was possessed of a sound understanding, and his industry in fulfilling every public engagement was altogether unwearied. His assiduous attention, however, to little objects, seems to have narrowed his mind; and though perfectly equal to the business of office, so long as it continued in a regular train, he was not formed to grapple with arduous situations, or to tread unbeaten paths.

J. R.

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As grateful praise from graceful throats.

1798. ON THE DEATH OF LADY MITCHELL. 315

On the Death of Lady Mitchell, Relict of Sir John Mitchell Bart, who died lately in Shetland, universally regretted by the whole country.

The Song of Death is sung.

What mused that green,
That look of fear,
Why droops the head,
Why drops the tear?
Cease, oh my friends! cease to complain,
Eliza's dead, but lives again.

Hark! for the rugged rocks
The billows sweep with sounding roar;
The screaming gull longs for its nest,
Its weary pinions call for rest,
Nature in anguish hurls her head,
Her favourite child Eliza's dead!

The widow sobb'd forth her name,
The poor in tears rebound her frame;
Heav'n! see their need; thy aid impart,
To ease the pain, to ease the heart,
The helping hand is shut for aye;
The widow's friend is cold in clay.

See charity with look so mild,
With open heart and liberal hand,
Point to the helpless orphan child,
Once tutor'd by affliction's wand;
But, 'neath Eliza's fostering care,
Joy did his choicest gifts prepare.

Now grief sits brooding on each brow,
And sighs relate the sad acclaim;
Each heart is melted into woe,
Yes, e'en the stones relate her name.
The pride of Wuthers' echo mourns,
And rock to rock the tale returns.

Each life bears witness to her praise,
And Echo's voice times her life;
Seraphick strains ascend on high,
Fram'd by her favourite harmony,
Ere, can the world produce such notes,
As grateful praise from graceful throats.

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Parental moans, paternal pray'rs,
Alternate sighs, maternal fears,
Deck with the gloom of woe
The house, where erst a mutual joy
The heart did well employ,
And happiness beflow'd;
Sudden and awful was the fatal change!
'Twixt life and death how narrow is the range!

Lo! see her hail the bliss, ahodes
Come sister, sister come,
Resounded through the realms of God,
Such is her happy doom,
And charity is meek, with voice divine,
Come, fav'rite child, eternal bliss be thine!

Such are the transports of the just,
Ah! why is vice so strong,
Since mankind must return to dust,
That dust from which they sprung,
Learn from Eliza virtue's laws,
Nor fear the tyrant's rods,
When death shall make the fatal pause,
Beside this world and God.

Q. D. C.

The Editor hopes to be permitted by the proprietors to publish these verses in the
The copy is preferred, should it be wanted.

Ode on Content.

Thrice happy he, whose daily pray'r,
Is, to preserve with sober care,
An easy competence;
Whose happy and contented mind
Is ever placid and resign'd;
And trusts in providence,
His views are bounded with his state,
Nor envies he the rich nor great
In peaceful solitude,
Far from the world's gay giddy blaze,
He spends his humble happy days,
In acts benign and good.

Heav'n grant that I a mind like this
Contented ever may possess;
While, free from anxious fears,
I may a moderate share enjoy
Of blessings that can never cloy,
Amid revolving years.

ALEXIS.

The Lover's Wish.

Addressed to a Young Lady.

If true, as fates divines relate,
That we shall in a future state
Assume new forms divinely fair,
Renew'd in shape as well as air;
Then this should be my humble pray,
That you no other form should wear,
Than that in which you now appear,
With that same beautiful nameless grace
Alike in person and in face.
Then, as on earth, still you would shine
Among the blest supremely fine.

ALEXIS.

To the Editor of the Bee.

SIR,

THE following lines, addressed to Burns, the poet of Ayrshire, and his letter to the author of them, whose name is concealed, as being of no moment, are from originals.

Wishing to promote the success of your publication, I shall not fail to communicate what I think may prove interesting to your readers:—And I am, Sir, with regard, Sir, your most humble servant,

A. B.

** Ode on Uffing.—To R. Burns.*

The Song of the Lark.

While up to Heaven, ascending on the wing,
The herald of the day doest sweetly sing;

* The adjective or synonym of a bard or poet in the Scots, Celtic or Gaelic language.

I see with glee the lovely sylvan fair,
 Still upward towering, see her now no more;
 With sweet delights upon my list'ning ear,
 As up she mounts, her charming song I hear;
 Till, tir'd at last with her enchanting song,
 Warbling so sweet the fleecy clouds among,
 Adown, adown, the charmer sinks again,
 Then swift descending lights upon the plain.
 Thus, heav'n-born poet, have I heard thee sing;
 High soaring sweetly on the muse's wing;
 Then seen thee sportive on our native scenes,
 From smoking Pegasus withdraw the reins,
 Set him to range far, far on Coila's shore,
 As if the steed you meant to mount no more;
 Then quick returning from the vulgar theme
 Of rural gambols, or the rustic team,
 "Away, away, I saw thee fly,
 "I saw thee mount again on high,
 "The smoking steed defies the reins;
 "Till tired at last upon our plains,
 "Thou, like the herald of the day,
 "The cheerful note of lovely May,
 "Down to old Coila's rustic scenes descend.
 Untutor'd Poet, may thy native lays
 Still gain their meed of unaffected praise;
 And may thy great unconquer'd country's fame
 Warm in thy song, and lighten from thy lyre.

The Letter alluded to above.

R. Burns, to the
 Sir,
 As for you have done me by your notice and advice
 in yours of the 1st, I shall ever gratefully remember
 "Praise from thy lips, 'tis mine with joy to boast;
 "They best can give it who deserve it most."

You touch the darling chord of my heart, when you advise
 me to fire my muse at Scottish story and Scottish scenes.
 I wish for nothing more than to make a leisurely pilgrimage
 through my native country, to sit and muse on the once
 hard contended fields, where Caledonia, rejoicing, saw her
 bloody lion born through broken ranks to victory and
 fame, and, catching the inspiration, to pour the deathless

April 27.

1798. A. LETTER FROM R. BURNS.

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names in song. But, ah! in the midst of these delighting enthusiastic reveries, a long-visaged, dry, moral-looking phantom strides across my imagination, and with the frigid air of a declaiming preacher sets off with a text of scripture, "I wisdom dwell with prudence." Friend, I do not come to open the ill-closed wounds, to imprint a lasting impression on your heart. I will not mention how many of my salutary advices you have despised; I have given you line upon line, and precept upon precept; and while I was chalking out to you the straight way to wealth and character, with audacious effrontery you have zig-zagged across the path, contemning me to my face. You know the consequences. It is not yet three months since home was too hot for you; that you were on the wing for the western shore of the Atlantic, not to make a fortune, but to hide your misfortune.

Now that your dear loved Scotia puts it in your power to return to the situation of your forefathers, will you follow their Will-o'-wisp meteors of fancy and whim, till they bring you once more to the brink of ruin. I grant, that the utmost ground you can occupy is but half a step from the veriest poverty; but still it is half a step from it. If all that I can urge is ineffectual, let her who seldom calls to you in vain, let the call of pride prevail with you. You know how you feel at the iron gripe of ruthless oppression; you know how you bear the galling sneer of contumelious greatness. I hold you out the conveniences, the comforts of life, independence and character, on the one hand; I tender you servility, dependence and wretchedness, on the other: I will not insult your understanding by bidding you make a choice. This is an unanswerable harangue, I must return to my rustic station, and in my wonted way, woo my rustic muse at the plough-tail. Still, while the drops of life, while the sound of Caledonia's name shall warm my heart, gratitude to that dear prized country in which I boast my birth, and gratitude to those her distinguished names who have honoured me with their approbation and patronage, shall, while stealing through my humble shades, ever distend my bosom, and at times, as now, draw forth the swelling tear.

I am Yours, &c.

Edinburgh.
Feb. 7, 1787.

R. BURNS.

Improvements in Arts, &c.

An easy and effectual method for mending shrouds, or other ropes, accidentally cut in time of an engagement at sea, or otherwise, by Mr. Joseph Brodie Shipmaster Leith.

In a former number of this work, Vol. 1st, p. 113, I had occasion to mention Mr. Brodie's name with respect, as the inventor of a kind of moveable keels for a boat, that was found to be a very useful improvement.

That which I now announce to the public, is equally new, equally useful, and it will be allowed by every good judge to be efficacious.

To dwell upon the danger a vessel runs, when her shrouds or stays, or other important standing ropes are shot away, or otherwise broken, were an idle task, as every man must see, that in these circumstances the vessel runs a great risk of being entirely lost, if it be not immediately repaired; and that of course, it is of the utmost importance to have the damage repaired as quickly as possible.

Hitherto, this has been a great disideratum in the marine art: The tying such a rope, &c. as heretofore, by means of stoppers, is a tedious process, and far from possessing the firmness that is required in an occasion of this sort.

Mr. Brodie's contrivance for this purpose, consists of two pairs of clips or sheers connected together by a rope and pulleys, as represented by the miscellaneous plate, Fig. 1st. Where A is the mouth of the sheers bent a little forward, so as to admit of its receiving the rope quite straight into its chops, without any defect. These chops are armed on the inside with teeth to secure the rope in the firmest manner. The sheers above, are exactly the same with these below, excepting the winch; and therefore, one description will answer for them both. The handle of the sheers, B, bends downward, so as to form a ring that grasps the cheeks of the triangular apparatus,

April 27,

1791.

MECHANICAL INVENTIONS.

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sliding freely upon its round sides backward or forward at pleasure.

From the point of the triangular apparatus, proceeds a straight tang right forward, which passes through an eye formed on the other side of the pivot of the sheers, and thus connects the sheers and the triangular apparatus firmly together. This ring also embraces the tang, so as to allow it to move freely backward and forward.

When, therefore, the whole apparatus is loose, if the sheers be pushed backward, so as that the handle B embraces a wider part of the triangular cheeks than in its present position, the chops A are consequently opened up, and by pulling it backward far enough, you make it gape, so as to be capable of taking in the rope you have occasion to secure. When this is done, by pulling it forward the handles are pressed together, and the more they are thus pulled, the more firmly must they hold the rope; as is evident from the figure.

The upper apparatus, being in all these respects the same as the under one, it is made to lay hold of the under end of the broken rope in the same manner, which will all be clearly understood by inspection.

The two triangular apparatus's, with their sheers, are connected by a rope running upon sheeves, as in the figure. But as the distance between two ends of one broken rope may be much greater than another, it is proper to have the connecting rope of considerable length, with a knot upon its one end to prevent it from slipping through the sheers the other end of this rope being fixed to the axle C. This rope, when the sheers are put into their proper position, may be suddenly tightened by pulling, and the end of it fastened to a clet any where that may be convenient, or it may be secured upon the pin E, which serves as the axis of the lower sheeve, and is here represented as a little longer than necessary for that purpose, that it may answer occasionally the purpose here indicated.

When the apparatus is thus brought nearly to its true position, it is then to be tightened as firm as possible by means of the winch C, the arm of which may be as long as shall be thought necessary;—and if a great pull were wanted; the axle being prolonged, another winch may be put upon the

VOL. II.

†

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other end of it.—What is thus gained, is secured by means of a ratch-wheel upon the axle, (which the engraver has omitted to mark).—The winches slip upon the end of the axle; and therefore, can be taken off when they are no longer wanted.

Though the several articles are not here so accurately engraved as I could wish, it seems to me to be impossible to mistake any particular of this apparatus by consulting the plate.

All the parts of this apparatus, excepting the connecting rope and pulleys, are made of firm hammered iron.

Any ship, by having a sufficient number of these spare on board, could, even in the middle of action, mend in a few minutes, any number of ropes that might chance to be broken,—and render them as firm and tight as before: In which state, they could remain till time permitted to give them full repairs.

Movable Thofts or Tbwarts for a Ship's Boat.

THE same Captain Brodie having frequently experienced the inconvenience that resulted from the present awkward method of unshipping the *thofts* * of a ship's boat, when it was necessary to stow a smaller one within her.—This he effected by fixing firmly to each side of every end of the thoft, a strong knee'd piece of iron, like in form to the bands of a hung gate, though longer proportionally, and of a thickness proportioned to the size of the boat. These, all pointing forward, were let into two iron eyes fitted to receive them, firmly fixed to the side of the boat. Thus, by merely pushing them backward upon a rest at each end fitted to receive them, they are entirely taken away, and can be replaced again in a moment, by slipping them forward into the rings. They are prevented from coming out from any accidental jolt, by means of a pin that passes through a hole in the knee'd band, just below the ring. This pin is fastened to the side of the boat, by means of a small chain, so that it can never be lost or out of the way.

* For the sake of our readers who are not acquainted with sea-affairs, it is proper to inform them, that *thofts* is the technical name of those benches which go from side to side of a boat, and serve at the same time, as benches for the rowers, and girders for tightening the boat.

April 27.

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1791. FOR DRAWING OFF AIR IN WATER PIPES. 323

A new, efficacious, and simple invention for drawing off the air that accumulates in the higher part of water pipes, by an ingenious professor of natural philosophy, deceased.

Thus, like every other mechanical invention of the ingenious contriver of it, is beautiful for its simplicity. It consists of a cylindrical metalline box, A B. (See miscellaneous plate, fig. 2d), placed above the highest part of a water pipe, and firmly cemented to it. Inclosed within it, is a hollow vessel of copper, or other light matter, D, which fills nearly the whole cavity of it, only a little shorter. In the top of this vessel, is formed a semi-cylindrical cavity ground true, into which is laid loosely a plano spherical piece of ground glass, which rises a little higher than the sides of the copper vessel. A small hole is drilled through the top of the external box at A, and another through the pipe at C, so as to open a free communication between them. When a bubble of air accumulates in the pipe, as at C, that air naturally escapes through the hole into the upper vessel; it is no sooner gone off that way, than the water follows it, which forces the air through the hole A. But as the water rises in the vessel A C, the vessel D, being of less specific gravity than the water, is forced to float upon it; and gradually, by this means, comes to press upon the top. Whenever this happens, the plano spherical glass adapts itself exactly to the inside of the hole at A, and stops it up entirely. Thus no water can escape, and thus it must remain until another bubble of air shall accumulate, when the inner vessel by its gravity, must sink and leave room to the air again to escape; and so on continually it works, always opening of itself to let off the air whenever it accumulates, and closing again as soon as it has made its escape, preventing any water from ever being lost.

Having been favoured with a copy of the book mentioned below, after the fifth half sheet of this number was put to press, the editor has added an extra half sheet, that his readers might follow the communication as soon as possible.

Further particulars respecting the new metallic Reguli.

In the first number of the Bee, was given some account of the new discoveries in Germany respecting metals; but on that occasion, having only got a slight notice of these discoveries, I postponed a further account, till the description of the cabinet of Mademoiselle de Raab, (in which a full account of these discoveries was given), should reach this country. The editor has now obtained a copy of that elegant book, and makes haste to lay before his readers, the particulars respecting these discoveries, that were then unknown to him. The description of this lady's cabinet is written by Baron Born, and is one of the most scientific catalogues of fossil substances that hath hitherto been published; so that it will be sought for by the naturalist, on account of its merits in other respects, as well as by the scientific chemist, for the light it throws on the subject in question, and many others of a similar nature.

Baron Born introduces his account of these discoveries, with the following preface.

"The number of metals is a good deal augmented by the discoveries lately made by Messrs. Tondi and Ruprecht, at Schemnitz in Lower Hungary. They have not only established the metallicity of Manganese, Molybdena, and Tungstene, by producing perfect metallic reguli of these, convex, and in sufficient quantities to admit of their properties being in some measure ascertained, but they have also submitted to their researches, Chalk, Magnesia, and Barytes, and they have obtained from each of these earths, after having freed them from all heterogeneous parts, different and distinct reguli. We expect soon to learn, that the silicious and aluminous (argillaceous), are nothing else than metallic oxides; and then, all the class of

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metallic Reguli.

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earths and stones shall disappear in the mineral kingdom. This discovery is one of the most important that has been made in chemistry for a long time past; it ought to change and rectify our metallurgic processes, and perhaps, have its influence extended through every branch of chemistry. Perhaps, we do not as yet know any pure metallic substance except gold and silver; seeing it is probable, that a part of the unknown metal of the earths, which we make use of for accelerating the fusion of ores, mixes with the other metals, and debases them. Perhaps the same acid dissolves the regulus of chalk, and of barytes, as that of copper, and then we cannot observe this mixture which was never suspected. Perhaps the hardness, or the greater or less ductility of iron, copper, tin, and some other brittle metals, derive this quality from this mixture. We will know all this, only after chemists shall have examined every one of these metals apart, and communicated to the public the details. We are almost certain, that some one of these newly discovered metals will precipitate the others from their solutions under a metallic form, which must tend greatly to abridge several metallic processes." Thus far in general. Mr. Born then proceeds to particulars.

BARYTES.

Specific gravity, 6.744.

Messrs. Tondi and Ruprecht having succeeded lately in verifying the suspicion of several chemists, that Barytes might belong to metallic substances; after having separated by solutions and precipitations all heterogeneous parts, they added to the barytes earth, or oxides of barytes, an eighth part of charcoal, and reduced this mixture into a paste by means of linseed oil; this paste put into a crucible, [no mention made of the kind of crucible] which they filled up with powdered charcoal, was then melted in a strong heat. After being an hour and a half in fusion, they obtained a perfect metallic regulus, which we shall describe below. This assay was repeated several times, even with the vitriolated barytes, or white heavy spar, without having once failed.

"It will be proper, in consequence of this discovery, to change barytes from the class of earths and stones, to that

of metallic substances; and seeing its specific gravity is less than other brittle metals, assign it the first or lowest place among these under the name of barytes, of which there will be two species, viz. the agerated, or carbonate of barytes, and the vitriolated or sulphat of barytes.

Regulus of Barytes, obtained from the white sulphat of Barytes of Tyrol, by Messrs. Tondi and Ruprecht, in the laboratory of the academy of the mines of Schemnitz in Lower Hungary.

"This regulus is of an iron-gray colour; its surface is equal, having a metallic lustre; its tissue is lamellated; the lamellæ are large, and appear to cross each other (*centre-couper*); it is very brittle, and not hard, seeing it polishes very easily upon a hone; it is attracted by the loadstone, although its oxydes had been deprived of all its martial particles; and it appears, that the property of moving the magnetic needle, is common to Barytes and to Nickel.

"This discovery is of great importance to those who are engaged in the fusion of ores at large. The heavy spar or barytes very often accompanies ores of copper. This matrice is not separated from the ore in committing the matter to the furnace, as it has been accounted an useful flux for promoting the fusion of the copper. Nevertheless, it often happens, that the fused copper is either too harsh and brittle to be hammered, or not proper to be made into brass, by means of calamine or zink. Perhaps, the alloy of barytes that mixes with the copper during the fusion, is the cause of these faults.—Of this we shall obtain some certainty after the ulterior researches that shall be made respecting this metal. Mr. Tondi has given to this metal the name of *Borborium*."

MAGNESIA.

Specific Gravity.—7380.

"It is only a few days ago, that Messrs. Tondi and Ruprecht have realized the conjecture of Mr. Lavoisier, that perhaps all those substances hitherto called primitive or simple earths, are only metallic oxides furcharged with the oxygenous principle, so that the affinity between this and

April 27,

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its specific gravity
is 6963. The colour
resembles that of steel,
compact, and of a convex form.
Its fracture is uneven,
granulated, and has more
metallic lustre internally,
than on its surface. It is
brittle, not hard, not
attracted by the loadstone.
Mr. Tondi will publish, in a
short time, the process he
made use of for preparing the
oxide of Molybdena, and for
reducing it to a regulus, the
properties of which have not

1791. REGULUS OF MAGNESIA, AND CHALK.

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the metal is stronger than its affinity with charcoal. These able and assiduous chemists have undertaken to try if their method of reducing to reguli the most refractory metallic substances would be sufficient to deprive these earths of their own oxygen, supposing they are nothing else than metallic oxides; and they began with the carbonate of Magnesia, from which they have obtained the regulus we shall describe. This assay has been repeated several times, and the effect has always been the same; so that no person can longer maintain a doubt of magnesia being a metallic oxide.

Regulus of Magnesia.

"The regulus of Magnesia is convex and compact, of a clear grey colour, which approaches to that of the grains of Martial Platina; when broke, it is granulated and partly striated; it is harder than the regulus of Tungstene and Molybdena; the loadstone has no effect upon it, at least unless it be reduced to very small fragments. Mr. Tondi has given to this metal the name of *Austrum*. Its other properties and relations are not yet known; but they are proceeding to submit it to farther trials.

Regulus of Chalk; its specific gravity not yet ascertained.

"The colour and lustre of this metallic regulus, which is convex and very compact, is almost equal to that of the regulus of Platina. It takes a beautiful polish; its other qualities not yet ascertained. Mr. Tondi wishes this regulus to be known in future by the name of *Paribumum*.

Regulus of Molybdena.

Its specific gravity, ascertained by Mr. Haidenger, counsellor of the mines in Schminitz, is — 6963. The colour resembles that of steel, compact, and of a convex form. Its fracture is uneven, granulated, and has more metallic lustre internally, than on its surface. It is brittle, not hard, not attracted by the loadstone.

Mr. Tondi will publish, in a short time, the process he made use of for preparing the oxide of Molybdena, and for reducing it to a regulus, the properties of which have not

yet been fully ascertained. He has observed on the surface of one of these Molybdenic reguli, little cavities in which that metal had chrytallised in prismatic needles, which were too small for determining the number of their sides.

Some farther particulars from this work will be given soon.

In answer to several letters that have been received, enquiring where Gypsum can be had, the Editor, on inquiry, finds it is sold by Mr. James White at the marble work at Leith.

In spite of every effort of the Editor, he is sorry to find, that errors of the press are still too frequent.—The following, that occur in one paper, so often mar the sense, that, in justice to the ingenious writer of it, they are here inserted,

Page 201, motto, for *Tib.* 43, Ec. read *Tib.* 1. 3. El. Line 2d, from top, for *short*, read *strict*. Ditto, line 3, for *use*, read *rise*.

Page 202, from bottom, for *inscribed*, read *inserted*.

Page 204, l. 17, for *Jack and Jenny*, read *the wooing of Jack and Jenny*.

Ib. note, for *Troupart*, read *Froissart*.

Page 205, l. 3, for *provided*, read *promoted*.

Page 209, l. 21, for *scots*, read *score*.

Ib. l. 27, for *make a new model of*, read *make or new model*.

Page 210, signature, for *Runcole*, read *Ruricola*.

••• The Chronicle given with this number, should have been delivered with No. III. Two other half-sheets of that Chronicle will be delivered with the next number, or the Index to this Volume.

April 27,

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THE BEE,

LITERARY WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER,

FOR

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 1791.

To the Editor of the Bee.

SIR,

THE following translation from the Latin, of a fragment found in one of the libraries at Constantinople, of a letter to Cossutianus Capito, which is ascribed to Petronius Arbiter, I have lately received from the possessor of this curious remain of antiquity, who intends soon to publish it in the original; with notes, by a gentleman who deserves to be better known in the republic of letters. At present I offer you this translation, with a view to excite attention to the eastern repositories of classical learning, where much may be recovered, if Catherine the Great shall be able to replace the eagle at Constantinople, and Apollo be permitted once more to wave his golden locks on the shores of the Hellespont. I am, Sir,

your humble servant,

A. B.

TO COSSUTIANUS CAPITO.

You are not unacquainted, O Capito, with my glorious and happy indifference concerning those things

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†

which are transacted at Rome; and I desire you to be persuaded, that I am happier in this second city of Italy, than you are in the first; for whilst you are not only suffering the terror of new devastations in Campania, from the convulsions of nature and the elements, but those arising from your own dangerous situation in the midst of your enemies, I am here enjoying the purest air, the most tranquil life, and the greatest variety of amusements that can be conceived.

I assure you, Capito, that if the sense of men and the spirit of women consist, as I esteem, in tasting every pleasure to the utmost boundary of health and fortune, and reputation, and even a little beyond the last, when our situation enables us to brave the censure of the cynicks, here we have as much sense, and more spirit than you have, *for our fortunes are by no means equal to our abilities.*

Few are the sources of wealth with us. That flows from all the world to the seven hills with an uniform and immense stream, disobeying the old laws of nature, and flowing wards from the boundless ocean to the capital. Among us, indeed, have been in Bithynia, as I remember, and to better purpose, for they have brought home with them what would have prevented me from leaving Rome, or added to the riches of your illustrious father-in-law, by a modern testament or proscription suited to the temper and fortune of these happy times. These sons of fortune, and the provinces, who are afraid of being made sponges of in the golden palaces of Rome, drop without compulsion, enough in this city, to make us all open our Tantalean lips to taste the nectareous juice; and whilst these fortunate men are scattering their *aurei* among the hand-maids of luxury and pleasure, the poor, but elegant provincials of this country are straining every nerve to carry their whole fortune on their backs or in their bellies, to regale their ears with the music of Cepio, or feast their eyes with the significantly voluptuous mo-

May 4

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1791.

LETTER TO CAPITO.

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tions of our dances at the theatre, to behold the wrest-
ing and boxing of gladiators, the fighting of various
animals; and thus deliciously prolonging their pleasures
through the night, they spare themselves the disgust of
seeing the insipid and common officer of the city or its
neighbourhood, during the first part of the day; and
when necessarily forced to arise from restlessness, deli-
cious liquors are provided for the men, and lulling nar-
cotics for the women, whereby a delightful confusion
is created in the mind, until the business of the suc-
ceeding evening calls them forth to fresh pleasures.

Our men and women have long since adopted the re-
fined fashion of lying alternately at the midnight ban-
quet; and if our ladies do not permit us to see so much
of the panting bosom, as they do with you, they con-
ceal, I assure you, what is better worth attending to:
For our air is both purer and better than yours, and
the salubrity of the climate enables all of us to pursue
the delights of society on firmer and better ground than
can be enjoyed by those who are relaxed and enfeebled
by the sickly influence of Campania. One inconveni-
ence, I must, however, admit, which is owing to the
novelty of our improvement; our women are not quite
so delightfully varied and interesting in their conversa-
tion, and real accomplishments of the understanding; as
those of Rome and Athens; but in the pursuit of plea-
sure, they are indefatigable, going to every place of
amusement for their improvement, and sometimes, to
two or three in an evening; so that they will gradually
attain the laudable object of their ambition. That, at
present, unfortunately, is too much directed towards
the public amusements themselves, as a primary ob-
ject, in the elegance and variety of dress, and in prudent
love, under the awe and constraint of their sour hus-
bands, fathers and aunts; but by degrees, this will
wear off; for time, O Capito, is necessary to fortify
the mind, not only against the accidents of fortune, but
the disappointments in pleasure.

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In short, my friendly Capito, we do nothing here, nor can we endure any thing that is stupid and solemn. We fiddle, we box, we wrestle, we dance, we sing, we love, we chatter, we frisk about the streets, we drink Falernian in the morning, and drink it again in the evening; we amuse ourselves with our friends, wives, and our wives amuse themselves with our friends; we go to the theatre, the circus; we sup, and do all we can, or can be permitted to do with impunity. Judge, then, my dear Capito, for yourself concerning my situation; the outlines of which will perhaps amuse the circle of my friends at Rome, whom I hope, through your mediation with him who has all power in his hands, to embrace before many days.

Farewell.

The Editor begs leave to return his most grateful thanks to the unknown writer of the foregoing elegant satire, which will acquire, in the opinion of every polite reader, an additional poignancy from the delicate manner in which the subject is treated.

On the Moors in Spain.

Further particulars concerning the Moors in Africa and Spain.

SEVERAL readers of this work, having expressed a desire to have some farther notices concerning the Moors in Spain, and the manners of that people, we shall endeavour to gratify their wishes. It is not, however, without hesitation, that we proceed in this task; for we are aware, that the modes of thinking, and the principles of the actions of these people, were so different from any thing we see among ourselves, or have been accustomed to contemplate in the history of past times, that the facts we shall have occasion to state, will appear so improbable, as by many to be deemed pure fictions of the brain. A people whose hearts have been once

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corrupted by the degrading contamination of civilized depravity, cannot stretch their faculties to such a degree, as to believe those things *possible*, which are the natural operations of an upright and vigorous mind.

We have been accustomed to view the disciples of Mahomet as a set of religious bigots, who sacrificed every moral virtue at the shrine of religious zeal. This idea only marks our own ignorance. We have heard the prophet and his immediate followers branded with the most odious epithets, and not without justice; And here our inquiries have stopped. We forget to draw the parallel between the liberal and magnanimous Saladin in the wars of Palestine, and the bigotted miscreants who opposed him. We have not heard of the private virtues of the great Abilqualit, Miramolin, Jacob, Almanzor †, the conqueror of Spain; a man whose name deserves a yet higher degree of exaltation among princes than that of a Plato, an Aristotle, a Bacon, or a Newton, among philosophers. This man, laying aside all prejudices of every kind, viewed the beneficent creator of this universe, as the only pattern for the conduct of princes; and feeling himself to be a man liable, to the same weaknesses and misfortunes as other men, considered it as his duty to relieve as much as he was able the distresses of every sentient being that came within the sphere of his power. His protection, his friendly tenderness, his liberality, was extended to every human being who stood in need of it; nor on these occasions was a question ever asked,

† It was the fashion among the Moors to have many names, some of them family names, such as Nazar, which was the family name of this dynasty, and others acquired from accidental circumstances. Miramolin, which, like Emperor or Caesar, was an honorary epithet that applied to several individuals. Almanzor, which signifies invincible, was a title peculiarly and exclusively applied to this prince only, and therefore serves well to discriminate him from all others. This title was conferred on him by his army, by acclamation, after a great victory, and he ever after retained it, having had the singular good fortune never to have suffered, either by himself or any of his generals, a defeat during the whole course of his reign.

whether the suffering object, was a Jew, a Mahometan or a Christian. It is a disgrace to the republic of letters, that the life of such a man should be so little known in Europe; and it shall be our study to supply that defect in a short time, from materials, the authenticity of which can admit of no dispute. In the mean while, it is only necessary to observe, that the conduct of a prince who was unrivaled in war, and unequalled in the arts of civil government, whose wealth flowed through a thousand channels, every one of which tended in the most direct manner to diffuse blessings among his people; who was adored by all his subjects as a divinity on earth; should be long held up as the model for all his descendents to imitate. And as Almanzor himself ascribed all his good fortune, and all his power, to the beneficent uses to which these were continually applied, it is no wonder that his successors should cherish this idea for a long time, or that the learned men he had so liberally patronised, should concur with them in intermingling these ideas in the inscriptions they prepared for perpetuating the memory of remarkable events. This may account for that strain of kindness for the sovereign approaching to adoration, which is so conspicuous in all these inscriptions, as well as that delicate advice which intermixed with them, by attributing every fortunate event to the virtues of the heart, which gave rise to the actions they celebrate. This is so unlike to the contaminating adulation bestowed on modern princes, great men and philosophers, as to form a species of composition that is both new and surprising.

Among the virtues that Almanzor cherished, an inviolable regard to truth was the first, and a faithful and unequivocal discharge of every duty he came under, was the necessary consequence. From him this passed into Spain; and it became a distinguishable trait of the Moorish character. To the same source may be traced those great and magnanimous ideas that gave rise to chivalry, which probably took its rise among the Moors, and

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from them it was caught by the Goths in Spain. Even till this hour, the remains of these notions influence the character of the Spanish nation, the people of which pride themselves justly on the unfulfilled integrity of their conduct to mankind.

The height to which this point of honour had attained among the Moors in Spain, is well illustrated by the following story, which, on account of its singularity, has been retailed in many publications, but which, as it is short, and can never be too generally known, I shall not hesitate here to transcribe.

While the Moors still kept possession of the southern parts of Spain, a Spanish cavalier, in a sudden quarrel in the town of Granada, slew a Moorish gentleman, and fled. His pursuers soon lost sight of him; for he had, unperceived, thrown himself over a garden wall. The owner, a Moor, happening to be in his garden, was addressed by the Spaniard on his knees, who acquainted him with his case, and implored concealment. "Fear this, said the Moor (giving him half a peach); you now know that you may confide in my protection." He then locked him up in his garden apartment, telling him, as soon as it was night, he would provide for his escape to a place of greater safety. The Moor then went into his house, where he had scarce seated himself, when a great crowd, with loud lamentations, came to his gate, bringing the corpse of his son, who had just been killed by a Spaniard. When the first shock of surprise was a little over, he learned from the description given, that the fatal deed was done by the very person then in his power. He mentioned this to no one; but as soon as it was dark, retired to his garden, as if to grieve alone, giving orders that no one should follow him. Then accosting the Spaniard, he said, Christian, the person whom you have killed is my son; his body is now in my house; you ought to suffer, but you have eaten with me, and I have given you my faith, which must not be broken. He then led the astonished Spaniard to his stable, mount-

ed him on one of his fleetest horses, said, fly far while the night shall cover you; you will be safe in the morning: you indeed are guilty of my son's blood, but God is just and good, and I thank him that I am innocent, and that my faith given is preserved."

Having thus endeavoured to give some slight notions of the people to whom the inscriptions apply, I shall now lay before my readers a few other inscriptions transcribed from the walls of the Moorish palaces of the *Alhambra* and *Generelisse* of Granada.

"The palace of the *Alhambra*, says a late ingenious traveller *, to whom I am indebted for the most of these inscriptions, may be called a collection of fugitive pieces; and whatever duration these may have, time, with which every thing passes away, has too much contributed to confirm to them that title. If the simplicity of early ages, ideas frequently sublime, although expressed with emphasis, and manners not our own; and marked with the stamp of several centuries, can excite the curiosity of those by whom my book may be read, they will not blame me for having transmitted to them the minutest details of this kind; they will regret with me my inability to preserve the full-blown flowers of the imagination of a valiant and illustrious people, with all their freshness and natural elegance."

In one of the apartments, is the following inscription, allusive to the great *Miramolin*.

"Observe, that all the kings who have been and now are in this palace, render justice to Abu Nazar, and take pride in him: He is endowed with such majesty, that, placed in the heavens, he would have obscured the planets and the signs of the zodiac. His looks strike terror into the minds of kings; but, without violence, he attracts them to him, and protects them by his own glory; for, to his terrible

† M. de Bourgoanne.

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" look, he always joins greatness of mind and benevo-
lence. He served not Arabian and Andalusian kings
only, but all the sovereigns of the earth."

In another cabinet, is the following inscription on
the same subject.

" Glory of the kings who have disappeared from the
earth, honour of those by whom thou shalt be suc-
ceeded; wert thou compared to the stars, they would
be humbled; were splendor and nobility wanting to
thy dignity, thy person would give it sufficient lustre.
Thou art the depository of the books which have pu-
rified the sect*, and which will be such evidence as
none shall contradict; how many former nations,
how many of those which now exist, have been sav-
ed by thy zeal! Thou concealest sublime ideas, and
thy virtues are so necessary, that thy end ought ne-
ver to come; they have all chosen an asylum in thy
breast; but especially, clemency and oblivion of in-
juries."

The Moors delighted in fine gardens, and their most
pleasing apartments looked into these.—Fresh water was
in all cases, a most delightful object in these warm re-
gions, and it furnishes a subject for repeated eulogium.
The following inscription, which was placed over a
window that looked into a garden, overlooking a basin

* When the famous Ximenes de Cusneros came to Granada, to co-
operate with the first archbishop of that city, Fernando de Talavera, in
the conversion of infidels, it is said, they collected a million and twenty-
five thousand copies of the Alcoran, which were burnt in the public
square; several works of taste and erudition, worthy of descending to
posterity, were confounded with the law of the prophet, and partook
of its fate: The press, upon which this inscription is written, probably
contained the Alcoran.

The great Almanzor entertained every pilgrim who came to his pa-
lace, for six days; and when those who were poor departed, they had
provisions given them to support them on their journey, for one day long-
er, at least. *Edm.*

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of limpid water, must have had a fine effect. Some English poets have attempted this kind of personification.

"I am like the sweet exhalation of plants, which satisfies, captivates and enchants thy senses. Behold the vase I support, and, in its purity, thou wilt see the truth of my words. If thou shouldst desire to give me one like it, thou canst find it no where, but in the moon when at the full; and Nazar, who is my master, is the star which communicates to me its light: As long as he watches over me, I shall never be eclipsed."

Over another window in the same apartment, is the following.

"Well may a sublime name be given to me, for I am fortunate and magnificent. This transparent and liquid reservoir which presents itself to thy view, will, if thou pleasest, quench thy thirst; but were the water to stop in its course, and never more to fill up these fortunate banks, it would not less testify the praises of Nazar, the man liberal beyond measure, whom no one leaves with the want which brought him into his presence."

Over the window of another apartment, which seems to have been set apart for the entertainment of pilgrims, is the following inscription. The windows looked into the garden:

"Praise be to God, because my beauty vivifies this palace, and I attain from the circle with which I am crowned, the elevation of the highest plants. My bosom contains springs of pure water; I embellish these scenes pleasing of themselves. They who inhabit me are powerful, and God protects me. I have preserved the remembrance of the great actions of men who believe in God, and whom he calls to himself. The liberal hand of Abulghaghegh has ornamented my outlines: It is a moon in its full, the

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"ven, and, at the same time, acts upon the whole
"earth."

Over a window on the inside of the same apartment,
is the following:

"Praise be to God: My architect has elevated me
"to the height of glory. I surpass in beauty the bed
"of the bridegroom, and am sufficient to give a just i-
"dea of symmetry and conjugal love. He who comes
"to me with the complaint of an injury, finds in me
"an immediate avenger. I yield myself to such as
"desire my table; I resemble the bow in the heavens,
"and like it, I am decorated with the colours of beau-
"ty. My light is Albughaghegh, who, in the paths
"of the world, continually watches over the temple
"of God, encourages pilgrims, and loads them with
"gifts." [To be continued occasionally.]

We shall have occasion, in some future number, to
give a particular account of the library of Almanzor.
The ignorant Ximenes, unable to read, confounded
all books on this occasion with the Coran, to the ir-
reparable damage of literature. Edit.

*Disquisition concerning the different varieties of the
different kinds of grain, and the uses that may be
derived from a knowledge of this particular by
the Farmer, exemplified with regard to oats.*

NATURALISTS have arranged bodies into classes, gene-
ra, and species; but the lesser subdivisions called *varie-
ties*, have been disregarded as not deserving the dignity
of philosophic investigation. But though philosophers
may despise these particulars as trivial, men in com-
mon life are often obliged to attend to them as of the
most important concern. This is particularly evinced
in regard to the object that now attracts our notice.
To the gardener and the farmer, it is a matter of the

highest importance to be able to discriminate exactly between the different varieties of the particular species of plants he means to cultivate, as a great part of his success in the business he follows, must depend on his choosing judiciously the kind that is best adapted to his particular situation, and that is calculated to answer the end he has in view.

Farmers and *gardeners* are here classed together, as their interests are both equally concerned in this kind of study, though it is, unfortunately for this country, the last of these alone who have made any proficiency in this branch of knowledge. Every seedsmen produces a long catalogue of the different variety of pease, beans, turnips, cabbages, &c. he may cultivate, each of which is distinguished by its particular name; and every skillful gardener is acquainted with the qualities, and distinguishing peculiarities of each kind. One kind he chooses because it ripens more early than others; another kind, because it yields a more abundant crop; a third, because it continues in health later in the season; one, because it suits heavy damp ground; another because it prospers best in sand; one, because it cannot be put upon too rich a soil; and another, because it prospers very well on poorer land. In short, the different qualities these different varieties possess, are numerous, and so well known that a skillful gardener can always furnish the table at the proper season, with abundance of those kinds of produce in every circumstance; which he could not possibly do, were he to be confined to the use of one sort only.

The farmer too knows in general, that some particular varieties of certain species of corn answer his purpose better than others; but his knowledge in this respect is wonderfully circumscribed when compared with that of the gardener. Some of these varieties do indeed obtain particular local names, by which they are known in a certain district; but these names are unknown elsewhere; Nor are the qualities of any of

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these varieties fairly ascertained, when compared with other varieties; so that every man is obliged to content himself with choosing for himself among the few that chance hath thrown in his way, without being able to know those other varieties of the same kind of grain that exist in other places, or to compare them with such as he already knows. This is therefore a department in agriculture that never yet has been studied. It is a field that never yet has been cultivated, which claims a farther investigation.

To give a feeble beginning to this kind of economic classification of useful kinds of grain, I shall here beg leave to throw out a few hints, the result chiefly of experience, concerning some of the different varieties of *oats*, that have fallen under my own observation, hoping that it may stimulate others to complete in time what I at present can hardly be said to begin, so very little is known on the subject.

I may premise, that there are two distinct species of *oats*; that have been, even by botanists, classed only as varieties, each of which includes under it a great number of lesser varieties. These two species are, 1st, the wild-oat properly so called; and, 2d, the cultivated oat. With the first I mean not now to burthen this essay, any thing farther than merely to distinguish it from the second sort.

The wild oat is not to be distinguished from the cultivated oat, by any of those criteria that have been hitherto adopted by the botanists for distinguishing plants; but all the varieties of it may with certainty be distinguished from every kind of cultivated oat, by one circumstance, and by that alone, the mode in which the grain is joined to the foot stalk; for these are in all cases very dissimilar. The common oat adheres to the foot stalk in a firm and durable manner, by means of its husks, which seems to be only a continuation of the fibres of the foot stalk, which close round it on every side, and firmly embrace the body of the grain, nearly

in the same manner that the husk of a filbert embrace the nut ; nor can these be separated from each other, except by a violent fracture, until the grain be quite ripe, and not even then without a considerable force applied to it.

Wild oats, on the contrary, have a kind of joint in the foot stalk, close at the end of the grain, by which that grain adheres to it only in a very slight manner, merely by juxtaposition, without any close union of fibres. This joint is not perceptible, while the corn is yet very soft and green ; but when it begins to fill, the cementing matter gradually loosens, so as to suffer the corn to fall off from the stalk, by the slightest external violence, long before the grain be fully ripened. This peculiarity of wild oats has been long remarked, and has given rise to many witticisms in almost every language. A grain of this kind of oats can be easily distinguished from the others, by a flat mark, exactly resembling the hoof of a horse, (without the internal crown) which none of the other kinds ever have. (See miscel. plate fig. 2. A cultivated B wild oat.) This is a certain and unequivocal mark of distinction : All others are uncertain. The plumpness of the grain, the length of the awn, the colour of the skin, are various in both kinds, and therefore cannot be relied upon as decisive.

Different varieties of oats are sometimes distinguished from each other by their colour, as red, white, black, grey, &c. The varieties of the *wild oat*, are perhaps equally numerous with those of the cultivated sort in this respect.

These varieties are at other times distinguished by the size of the grain, being called great oats, and small oats. Of each of these classes there are many varieties, both among the cultivated and the wild oat.

They are sometimes distinguished by the smoothness, or hairiness of their husk, or by the length of their awns. Among the wild oats, a greater propor-

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tion of the varieties are bearded and hairy, than among the cultivated oats. But there are varieties of plump, smooth, beardless grain among the wild oat, as there are of rough, small, and bearded grain among the cultivated sort.

They are also distinguished by their ripening sooner or later, being called *air* (*i. e.* early) seed oats or *dour* (*i. e.* late) seed oats.

There is also a variety of oats which I have often heard of, but never seen, that is called naked oats, as having no husks.

It is enough however for our purpose to have thus briefly stated these distinguishable peculiarities, because, before any use can be made of them by the farmer, he must advert to lesser distinctions than any of those. Leaving these general distinctions, I shall now proceed to specify some particular kinds, whose qualities have been in some measure ascertained in this part of the country.

The earliest distinction I remember to have heard noticed, was *air* seed, and *dour* seed oats; which kinds every farmer in the Lothians had about thirty years ago. The one ripened more early by ten days than the other. They were both white, and in other respects not much different from each other. These two kinds have now disappeared, and have been succeeded by others more distinctly characterised.

Blainslie oats. This is a small white longish grain, that does not look very well. It has a very thin husk, however, and yields more meal than its appearance indicates. It prospers well in almost any soil, ripens tolerably early, yields a good deal of straw, and, on an indifferent soil, produces the greatest crop of any kind of oat yet known. It is therefore deservedly held in great esteem by all farmers of moorlands; but in rich soils it is apt to fall down and rot, and on such soils there are other kinds of oats that yield a much

greater crop. It is known in different parts of the country by different names. But as no other sort has ever been cultivated at *Blainzie* and *Fawns*, two bleak farms in the district of Dalkeith, it is chiefly known by the one or other of these two names.

2d. *Black oats*. There are many varieties of this colour. The kind I here describe is a full bodied plump grain, without awns; the husk is smooth and glossy, of a full black colour if it has been perfectly ripened, but when it has been cut a little green, it has a brownish tinge, a very weighty oat, and yields perhaps a greater proportion of meal than any other kind of oat, and that meal of the very best quality, which is pure white when properly sifted.

This oat grows tall and strong, with a firm stem that is not apt to lodge, and it prospers wonderfully in a damp rich soil, on which it yields prodigious crops. On this soil, a farmer may reckon on having from twelve to twenty stone of more meal, and a proportional quantity of straw from an acre of this oats than he could hope to reap if it had been sown with *Blainzie* oats; though upon a light, upland, poorish soil, the *Blainzie* oats would yield a much greater return than it.

N. B. There is a small kind of bearded oat, which was formerly cultivated in poor outfield lands in Aberdeen-shire, under the name of *smá' corn*, that is a poor vile kind of stuff. This is now little cultivated; but as some of the varieties of this *smá' corn* were black, many persons, on hearing the name, are apt to believe this sort is the same. This error ought to be guarded against. One boll of the black oats here alluded to, will yield as much meal as three bolls of the other at least.

3d. *Red oats*. This is a variety that has been long known in some parts of England, but has only been lately cultivated in Scotland. I have not had experience of it myself; but a gentleman in whose judgment

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I have confidence, who has cultivated it for some time, gave me the following account of it. This kind of oat ripens very early, is not apt to be shaken by wind, and yields a good proportion of meal. This gentleman therefore thinks it must be a valuable sort for cold and late soils, where other kinds of oats are apt to suffer by cold before they are ripe. If, upon trial it shall be found that it can prosper equally well with the *blainzie* oat upon poorish late soils, this must prove a valuable acquisition to the farmer; but I do not hear that this fact has been hitherto ascertained. I mention the circumstance here, because I have not found any other kind of very early oat that prospered very well in an indifferent soil.

Its name will be apt to make a person form a wrong idea of its colour. The husk is indeed of a brownish colour, though far from being red. It is exactly the same kind of colour that white oats acquire after being kiln-dried, or mow-burnt.

4th. *Early Effra* oat. I have seen two kinds of oat that were sold by that name; one of them a short thick oat, very like the Dutch oat mentioned below. The other, of which I now treat, is a small bodied neat white beardless oat, the skin thin, and consequently it gives an abundant yield of meal.

This is one of the earliest oats I have seen, and prospers very well on ground of a tolerably good quality, though, to have a full crop, it requires a rich soil in good order. It seems to possess all the properties of the red oat above described. The first of this kind of oat I saw, was in the year 1783. It was sown on part of a field on the 7th day of May, the rest of the field having been sown with *blainzie* oats, on the 20th of March; yet notwithstanding the difference in the time of sowing, the early oats were cut down ten days before the other part of the field. I found this a very valuable kind of oat, and have cultivated it ever since. Experience has taught me

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that this kind of oat yields in general a better crop, if sown between the middle and the end of April, than earlier; a peculiarity that renders it in some circumstances very valuable. It yields but a moderate quantity of straw, but that straw is not harsh. The grains hang upon the ear in the same way as common oats, and not in the rigid *bottle-brush* fashion of some other kinds of early oats.

5. *Dutch* oats. There are many varieties of these that differ greatly from each other. They are in general a plump short bodied kind of oats. One kind in particular is extremely thick, having usually one, sometimes two, sometimes even three small grains envelopped in the same hulk. This sort yields little meal, is extremely apt to shed, and is upon the whole one of the most unprofitable kinds of oats I have ever seen cultivated.

But there is another sort, the grain of which, though thick and short, is less so than the former. Its hulk is thinner, and yields more meal. It is not so very easily shaken as the other; and if sown upon very rich land, will yield a greater crop than any other kind of oat I have ever yet seen or heard of. This kind of oat produces little straw. It is short, and hard like a reed. The foot stalks that carry the grain spring from the stalk nearly at right angles, and are harsh and rigid. It is impossible to have ground too rich for this kind of oat. I have seen very rich land sown with it which had got a complete summer fallow, and a full dunging, without having the corn laid in any one part of the field. It stocks little, so that it requires about a half more seed than would be sufficient for any other kind of oat. In these circumstances, the returns are prodigious; so great, that were I to tell it, the fact would be disbelieved. In short, on a soil in the circumstances described, the crop would be at least double what could have been obtained from the same field, if it had been sown with *blainie* oats. Though it is also equally certain, that upon a poor soil the crop of *blain-*

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1791.

ON OATS.

347

the oats would be double at least, perhaps quadrupl^e
what would have been obtained from it if sown with
this kind of *Dutch oats*.

I might proceed to mention several other sorts; but
this paper is already too long. These few facts may
serve to shew in the clearest manner, the benefits that
a farmer may derive from a knowledge of this depart-
ment of his business; for it is clearly evident, that by
properly choosing among these few sorts, a man may
reap on many occasions double the crop from the same
field that he could have obtained from it, had he made
choice of improper sorts for his soil, in the circumstances
he finds himself placed: and as the varieties of wheat,
and other kinds of grain are equally numerous, it must
appear that till this branch of agricultural knowledge
be brought to a much greater perfection than it has
hitherto attained, the general produce of our fields
must be greatly less abundant than they easily might be
made.

When legislators pretend to take upon them to decide
whether a country is capable of producing corn suffi-
cient to support its inhabitants, without being previ-
ously acquainted with a single particular of the business
concerning which they take upon them peremptorily to
decide, what a ridiculous figure do they make! It
would not perhaps be a difficult matter to shew that
there is scarcely a county in Britain that might not be
made to produce a hundred times the quantity of hu-
man sustenance it now yields. I know extensive fields
that at present yield perhaps a thousand times the pro-
duce annually, that they did thirty years ago, or ever
before it. The knowledge of agriculture is yet but in
its infancy, and no man alive (to use a strong figure)
will see it even out of its cradle.

Remarks on that stile of Architecture, which is commonly called Gothic, continued from page 334.

Part Third.

In the foregoing remarks I have had occasion to shew, that several of the peculiarities that serve to distinguish the Gothic* from the Grecian stile of architecture, have not been capricious variations or accidental deviations, but that they have been adopted in consequence of deep thought and sound reasoning on mathematical principles, for effecting certain purposes that could not be attained by any mode of architecture known in the world, till this time. Some other particulars remain still to be explained, which shall form the subject of the present essay.

The *windows* of Gothic structures have attracted the particular attention of all beholders. These indeed are so large, so light, so superbly magnificent, as to form an object of universal admiration. It is satisfactory to be able to trace an uniformity of design, in all the parts of a magnificent structure, and pleasing to discover a simple principle, which, in its application to different purposes, produces a variety of beneficial effects that are not at first sight in any way connected with each other.

* It is requested that the reader will never forget that the kind of Gothic architecture here treated of, is that which has been employed in rearing cathedrals, and structures of that sort only. There were several other kinds of buildings reared in ancient times, that have been also denominated Gothic, about which I do not inquire at present. The reader will easily perceive, that if the artists made the same use of their reasoning faculties as they have done in the case before us, the buildings for strength or other uses, must have been constructed in a very different manner from those that now claim our attention.

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The philosophical construction of an arch is the radical principle to which may be traced all the peculiarities of Gothic architecture. The massiness of the abutments, the tallness of the pinnacles, the lightness of the windows, the structure of their towers, all depend upon this single foundation. That the principles of the arch were well understood by this class of architects, cannot be doubted by any one who observes with what dexterous facility they varied the proportion of the parts, so as to effect the purpose they aimed at, without diminishing the solidity of the structure.

It has been already shewn, that the pillars and their abutments are those parts of a Gothic structure that support the whole weight of the roof. Of course, walls between these pillars are of no use whatever as to strength. They might be entirely taken away without diminishing the strength of the fabric in the smallest degree. The rearing them at first, therefore, was intended merely as a screen to protect from the inclemencies of the weather, or to defend the hallowed fane from the intrusion of improper guests.

Our architects knowing this, saw therefore the absurdity of rearing very thick walls in these recesses, which could serve only to augment the expense of the structure, and render it more dismal and gloomy. This error they carefully avoided. These recesses were filled up to a certain height, with a thin partition, which deserves more properly to be called a screen than a wall; and above that, the whole space between the pillars formed only a railing of lattice work, consisting of fanciful forms, as the taste of individuals suggested as beautiful, the openings of which being filled with glass, formed what we now call a window. Of course, the only limits for the size of these windows was the span of the arches which supported the roof, and the height of the pillars, and the arch, when taken together. Thus also we find, that the shape of the top of it naturally conformed itself to the shape of the arches; and as these,

for reasons already assigned, were pointed, the windows of course became so likewise.

Hence also it happened, that the windows at either end of the nave and transepts, admitted of a magnitude of dimensions that nothing of this sort had ever been found to equal, and transmitted a vast volume of lights, that produced a most striking effect. How different from the sombre gloom that must ever have prevailed in the inside of an ancient temple? The east window of the Cathedral of York is thirty feet wide, and seventy five feet high, though the height of the whole building does not exceed a hundred feet. Let a disciple of Vitruvius sit down and calculate what must have been the dimensions of a Grecian structure, that could have admitted a window of that size, he will find it would have been of a vast magnitude indeed †.

The contrivances for giving light to the higher part of the middle nave by a range of windows all along each side, above the level of the roof of the side aisles, has been already mentioned, and need be here no farther noticed than merely to point out to the reader how attentive these artists were in all cases to avail themselves of every circumstance that the principles of their art admitted, to give light and elegance to the spacious structure they found themselves capable of erecting.

† Yet so inattentive are mankind to excellencies that are before their eyes, when blinded by prejudice, that the Earl of Burlington, a man much famed for his knowledge and taste in architecture, designed an assembly room for the town of York, and got it executed in the chastest mode of Grecian architecture. This room, on account of the veneration which the name of the architect inspired, was praised at first as superior in elegance to every thing that the architects of this island had ever produced; but now that this fascinating charm is weakened, the beholders wonder how it ever could have been thought beautiful by any one. It is already called an antiquated gloomy room; nor shall I be astonished to see the whole in a few years new modelled, and changed to a form that better accords with the taste of the times, and the use to which it was originally appropriated. The old cathedral in its neighbourhood forms a most striking contrast to it.

May 4.

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1791. ON GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE. 351

They seemed to have obtained a perfect power of mould-
ing their materials, like clay under the hands of the
potter, into whatever shape they pleased, and they al-
ways pleased to throw them into those forms that pro-
duced the greatest and the happiest effects. We now
however proceed to take notice of an embarrassing diffi-
culty that must have occurred to them, which would
perhaps have stopped the progress of any other artists,
and left their labours incomplete; but which they have
also overcome, and by their knowledge, which gave
to them powers that seemed to be little short of magi-
cal, has converted what must otherwise have appeared
a blemish, into one of the highest ornaments of these
singularly superb structures. This will form the subject
of a future article.

To the Editor of the Bee.

SIR,

On perusing the Edinburgh Advertiser from Friday Feb-
23th to Tuesday March 1st 1791, I found therein the fol-
lowing paragraph: "M. De la Grange an astronomer
of Berlin has made one of the most beautiful discov-
eries in that science, viz. that all the variations in our
system are periodical; so that though every thing al-
most without exception, be subject to change, yet, after
a certain interval, all things will return to the same
state in which they are at present, and thereby exclude
the introduction of a disorder, or any other irregulari-
ty that might constantly increase."

As a lover of scientific pursuits, I naturally wish to be
informed concerning the particulars of every new disco-
very made therein, and considering your publication as a
vehicle for disseminating knowledge amongst mankind,
I have sent the above, hoping, by your inserting it,
to be informed from some of your philosophical cor-

respondents (through the channel of your paper), of the particulars; and by what means M. De la Grange attained to such a discovery.

I am Sir, Yours &c.

Edinburgh }
March 16th 1791. }

ARCTURUS.

Another discovery has been announced in the newspapers from Germany, of an universal language, possessing many very singular properties, which the editor did not think necessary to take notice of, till he saw it more fully explained. *Edit.*

To the Editor of the Bee.

SIR,

As the plays of Massinger are not in every person's hands, you may perhaps think the following quotation from "a new way to pay old debts," worthy of a corner in your repository.

Overreach loquitur.

Why is not the whole world
Included in myself? to what use then
Are friends and servants? Say there were a squadron
Of pikes, lined through with shot, when I am mounted
Upon my injuries; shall I fear to charge them?
No: I'll through the Battalia, and, that routed,
I'll fall to execution. Ha! I am feeble.
Some undo me widow fits upon my arm,
And takes away its use; and my sword,
Glew'd to my scabbard with wronged tears,
Will not be drawn. Ha! what are these? sure hangmen
That come to bind my hands, and then to drag me
Before the judgment seat! Now they are new shapes,
And do appear like furies, with steel whips,
To scourge my ulcerous soul! Shall I then fall
Ingloriously, and yield? No: spite of fate,
I will be forced to hell, like to myself,
Though ye were legions of accursed spirits.

May 4,
your paper), of
M. De la Grange

ARCTURUS.

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1791

ON MASSINGER'S PLAYS

853

Perhaps you can inform me, whether these energetic lines are in the modern alteration of this play, which goes by the same name. Perhaps too you can inform me who was the Author of the "Tragedy of Mustapha," printed at London, for Nathanael Butter, 1609. If the above lines should be admitted, and you should wish for farther specimens of the tragic poetry of those days, for the purpose of comparing Shakespeare with his cotemporaries, I shall be both ready and willing to satisfy your desire, in some part.

I remain, your humble Servant,

JASPER LOTHIAN.

If this gentleman will be so kind as favour the Editor with a sight of these plays, it will be deemed a favour; but this he only requests if it be in every respect convenient and agreeable to him. They should be well taken care of, and faithfully returned. *Edr.*

THE two great means of diminishing the evils of life, are, 1. To foresee them before they arrive, but with a foresight exempt from disquietude, and which does not go so far as to make us suffer before-hand for misfortunes that may perhaps never arrive. 2. To see them such as they really are, when they do arrive; not to augment them by a false manner of thinking, and not to add to the real evils of life those that are only imaginary.

These two reflections comprehend all that can be said respecting happiness. There are pleasures and pains, goods and evils inseparately attached to the condition of man. But the art of being happy, as much as one can be, consists on one side in drawing the best part possible of the good, and on the other part, in suffering the least possible of the ill.

VOL. II.

Y

The following ode was lately discovered, and has by some been attributed to Horace; whether justly or not, your classical readers are left to determine. If you think it and the translation worthy of a place in the *Bec*, by inserting them, you will much oblige.

Q. Horatii Flacci Carminum, Lib. i. Ode xxix.

Ad Julium Florum.

Dicolor grandem gravat una eam um;
Infat Autumnus : giaciali anno
Max hyems volente aderit, capillis
Horrida canis.

Jam licet Nymphas trepide fugaces
Insequi, lento pede detinendas;
Et labris capta, simulantis iram
Offensa regi.

Jam licet vino madidos vetusto
De die letum recitare carmen :
Flore, si te des hilarem, licetbit
Sumere noctem

Jam vide curas Aquilone sparsas ?
Mens ruri fortis sibi constat, utrum
Seriis leti, citiusve tristic.

Adversus Sora.

Transition.

The grape now tinges to purple hue,
And full of juice, bends down the bough;
Now Autumn hastes his quick'ning pace,
With smiles of plenty in his face;
But winter shivering in the rear,
With hoary head will soon appear.
Now is the time for me and you
The flying virgin to pursue;
And on her lips, with rapturous bliss,
Though signing rage, to stamp a kiss.
Now Florus, moist with generous wine,
Let us all day invoke the nipe;
And if you relish this delight,
Beside the day, we'll spend the night.
And give our sorrows to the wind;
For he who boasts a gen'rous mind,
Nor heeds, though death arrives when late,
Or knocks to-morrow at the gate.

* I have totally omitted the "lento pede detinendas."

On Shakespeare, from Miscellanies in prose and verse.

Et patriæ Decus et voluptas,
 Ni Gratia te plus oculis ament,
 Ni te Camenæ plus oculis ament,
 Nec Gratias gratas, nec ipsas
 Effice rear lepidas Camenæ.

BUCHANAN.

When 'er attempts like Shakespeare to compose,
 Shall certainly his time and labour lose;
 Like those unwary fops, who once, we know,
 Essay'd to bend their absent monarch's bow.
 This mighty poet every key can hit,
 Rise in the hero, rally in the wit;
 Each various particle of man has read,
 From the proud palace to the peaceful shed;
 And still the passing scene supports so well,
 You think 'tis there his talent must excel.
 When the wrong'd Moor invokes his murder'd wife;
 When doughty Falstaff runs to save his life;
 When honest Brutus pleads the cause of Rome,
 And midnight hags foretel Macbeth his doom;
 When lively Benedick at marriage sneers,
 And poor Ophelia fills your eye with tears;
 When simple Timon finds himself too fond,
 And Shylock claims the forfeit of his bond;
 When moralizing Jaques sends forth a sigh,
 And gay Mercutio lets his fallies fly;
 Desdemona recites her virgin vows,
 And arch Petruchio tames his rampant spouse;
 When bloody Richard trembles at his dreams,
 And Wolsey reads the wreck of all his schemes;
 When John would hint what Hubert should perform,
 And houseless Lear raves amidst the storm;
 In what a blaze of eloquence he shines!
 How reason opens, how the heart refines!
 When Antony, with more than magic skill,
 Compels the mob to weep o'er Caesar's will;
 When the proud Welshman, by his ally cross'd,
 Of spells and prodigies pretends to boast;
 The sword of Douglas vindicates his name,
 And dying Warwick points the path to fame!

W. Homer.

In every page, we never fail to find
Inimitable pictures of mankind.

When Quickly's rambling tongue attempts to say,
How false Sir John had fix'd their wedding day;
When the old Russian in a strumpet's arms,
On vice and folly squanders all his charms;
When Poins and Harry are compell'd to hear
What Puppies in his judgement they appear;
When Hal's attack, the bold dissembler turns,
And virtuous Tear-sheet her plump pigeon spurns,
Parolles braves the lash of public scorn,
And frantic Ford holds up the fancy'd horn;
From Hotspur, Troilus, Hamlet, Romeo, down
To the dull Justice, and the gibing Clown;
From the stern victor at the Volscian gate,
To Orymion's antics, and Malvolio's prate;
What vary'd features does his pencil yield?
Puns in the bagnio, thunders o'er the field;
What brilliant tints of character combine!
How loudly nature speaks in every line!
When Ajax murmurs, Thersites reviles,
Grave Henry lectures, frank Menenius smiles;
When Fabius kneels, pert Lucio lies,
And sad Constantia for her Arthur cries;
When Bottom spouts *, and Buckingham displays
Th' usurper's birth-right in a peal of praise,
The blunt abruptness of the hardy Greek,
The shrewd poltroon with blows compell'd to speak,
The monarch cheerful till his reign began,
The forward, gay, facetious good old man,
The modest, eloquent, unhappy maid,
The pleasing coxcomb by his chat betray'd,
The blockhead's ignorance, the mother's pangs,
The monk's chill comfort, the state-quack's harangues,
All in successive vision seem to rise,
Each chaste original arrests our eyes:
A burst so splendid dazzles human thought,
And, in his phantoms, Shakespeare is forgot.
Down fancy's torrent, vanquish'd Reason glides,
Grief melts our bosoms, laughter aches our sides;
While pathos, truth, propriety, and art,
Strike blank amazement through the coldest heart.
What centuries of rhyming shall have roll'd,
What crowds of Rowes and Congreves fate unfold, }
A second Shakespeare e'er the world behold.

* The plan of the Rehearsal is borrowed from Shakespeare; a circumstance which seems to have
escaped the whole host of his commentators.

May 4,

1791.

KATE O' BRUNTSFIELD-LINKS.

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Kate o' Bruntsfield-links.

'Twas on a bonny April day,
When birdies sweetly sing,
An' buds appear on ilka spray,
At the approach o' Spring,
Then I first saw my lassie fair,
Mair fresh than meadow spinks;
O' beauty none has sic a share
As Kate o' Bruntsfield-links.

Her skin is like the lily pure,
Her een are black as slae;
An' tho' her fouk are ay ca'd poor,
Nane dis wear brawer claiiths,
Her titty Nell, an' cousin Meg,
Dress'd in their whites an' pinks,
Cou'd never shaw ye sic a leg,
As Kate o' Bruntsfield-links.

Her cheeks are like the rose in May,
Her waist is neat an' sma';
O' wooters, nae lass e'er had mae;
For me she flights them a'.
Were I posses'd o' gear an' land,
I'm fae ta'en wi' her blinks,
To nae lass I wad gie my hand,
Save Kate o' Bruntsfield-links.

Edinburgh,
April 13, 1790.

A—S—

*Intelligence respecting Arts, &c.**On some valuable new dyes extracted from Sandal wood,
(Hero-Carpus Santalinus.)*

A Mr. Couret having observed, that the watery solution of Sandal wood afforded but a weak colouring principle, tried if several other menstrua might not be capable of producing a much richer extract; after many trials, he found, that spirit of wine extracted this colour much better than any other menstruum, and that, by the following processes, might be obtained from it the respective dyes for wool, linen, silk, and cotton; some of them of great brilliancy and beauty. His method of preparing the spirituous extract, is as follows:

I. Strong or Spirituous Extract.

TAKE four gros of Sandal wood reduced to an impalpable powder;—digest this in twelve ounces of spirit of wine in a gentle heat. In the space of 48 hours, the spirit of wine will have extracted all the colouring matter from the Sandal wood. The tincture, thus prepared, may be employed for dying while it is quite cold, without requiring to be filtered. This extract does not lose its dying property by keeping, as after a long time, stuffs digested in it take as fine a colour as if it had been used the same day it was prepared. When it becomes weaker by use, it may be renewed by adding fresh powder to the menstruum, as long as it retains its strength as a spirit.

II. Weaker, or Diluted Extract.

AFTER the foregoing extract has been made, it may be diluted with six or ten times its quantity of water, without becoming turbid, or diminishing the beauty of the colour. In this weaker tincture, the stuffs must be boiled; and if previously dipped in bran water, they take a very solid colour.—Although the stuffs are boiled in this watery tincture, it is not necessary to separate the powder from it;—nor is it necessary to wash it out, if the stuffs are to be immediately dried; for when dry, it is easily shaken off.—The author,

MAY 4.

etc.

Sandal wood,

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1791. ON SOME VALUABLE NEW DYES. 359

however, recommends as a useful practice, after the stuffs are taken out and wrung, to put them for some minutes into cold water, in which had been previously dissolved at the rate of 4 gros of common salt, and 2 gros of Allem for every 12 ounces of water;—but in taking it from this last digestion, it ought to be carefully washed in cold water, as the colour becomes, by that means, more solid and permanent. Wool, cotton, linen, and silk, thus dyed, are not affected by soap or alkaline lessives, or even acids;—but in the open air, and exposed to the sun, linen and cotton are apt to lose a little of their beauty. The following colours were obtained from this extract, by preparing the goods, in the manner after-mentioned.

I. *Scarlet.*

Dissolve 2 gros of alum in 2 ounces of water.—Whilst the solution is yet warm, digest in it, for 12 hours, either silk, cotton, wool, or linen;—afterwards, wash them three different times with pure water;—wring them, and let them dry in the shade.—Thus prepared, let them be digested for an hour in the spirituous tincture cold,—or boiled for half an hour in the watery tincture. The stuffs, after being wrung and dried in the shade, were found to have taken a superb scarlet colour.

II. *Crimson.*

Dissolve three gros of blue vitriol in twelve ounces of water;—steep the stuffs in this for twelve hours;—dry them, as has been said;—being then digested for an hour in the spirituous extract,—or boiled in the watery extract, the one and the other assumes a fine crimson colour.

III. *A deep Crimson.*

This may be obtained by employing white vitriol instead of the blue in the last process. The colour comes out, in this case, a very dark crimson.

IV. *A lively red Colour.*

Take a solution of tin in the nitrous acid, diluted with three times its quantity of water;—digest the stuff in that for 6 hours;—then wash it three different times with pure water;—and dry it in the shade.—Then put it into the spirituous extract, and digest it in the cold for an hour, or boil it in the watery extract for a quarter of an hour;—dry it in the shade;—the colour is of a very lively red.

V. *A deep Violet*

MAY be obtained by dissolving three gros of green vitriol in twelve ounces of water.—Treat the stuffs, in every respect, as above; the result is a very fine deep violet.—Sometimes, however, in this experiment, instead of the violet, the colour turned out a deep dull red.

Intelligence respecting the new Method of Bleaching.

THE Editor is this moment informed, from authority that he thinks cannot be doubted, that the Reverend Mr. James Wilton of Stockport, (whose process for obtaining the fossil alkali from Glauber's salt we so lately communicated to the public) has made some important discoveries respecting the new mode of bleaching, that promise to be of very essential service in that valuable branch of manufacture. The particulars are not fully specified; only in general we are informed that the process is different from that of Mr. Berthollet, and that it is not only much less expensive, but also less troublesome in many respects; and in particular, that the difficulties respecting the vessels to be employed in the process, are entirely obviated. The Editor will not fail to communicate to the public, the particulars of this process, as soon as they shall be transmitted to him for that purpose, which he hopes will be ere long.

It is with much satisfaction he observes a gentleman of Mr Wilton's abilities steadily employed in making chemical experiments, with a view to the improvement of arts; and he hopes, an adequate return of profit will be the result. It is certainly the interest of manufacturers to encourage that spirit of inquiry, by giving returns for the communications they may receive proportioned to their value; and it is probably owing to the little profit discoverers derive from their labours, that so few persons in this country, have hitherto applied with assiduity to this important branch of study. Could a plan be devised by which manufacturers might form a common fund to be employed in distributing premiums of value, or in purchasing for their common behoof, manufacturing secrets, whose value had been previously ascertained, the Editor is persuaded that the discoveries in this country would then be numerous, and the advancement of our manufactures great and unequalled. He will therefore endeavour to submit to his readers some hints on that subject in some early number of this work, not doubting but they will be received with candour, and improved upon by those who shall turn their thoughts to this very interesting subject.

Ms. May 4,

of green vitriol in every respect, let.—Sometimes, the violet, the co-

of Bleaching.

priority that he thinks Wilfon of Stockport, Glauber's salt we so important discoveries to be of very ef- fect. The particulars of the process it is not only much respected, and in par- ticular employed in the fail to communicate on as they shall be the hopes will be cer-

man of Mr Wilfon's experiments, with a view to the return of profit to the manufacturers to en- courage the communications is probably owing to that so few persons in this important branch of business might form a nucleus of value, or in the secrets, whose value is added that the discov- ery of advancement of our endeavours to sub- stitute a number of this industry, and improved every interesting subject.

HISTORICAL CHRONICLE.

SHORT CHRONICLE

OF EVENTS.

[MARCH 23. 1791.]

FOREIGN.

THE assault of the Russians on the fortress of Ilimael on the 23d December last, was one of the most dreadful engagements of the kind which we ever read of. The singular strength of this place must always make its reduction memorable in his- tory; and the particulars of the late attack will ever render it an interesting though lament- able event.

The town had been forti- fied by a Spaniard. Its basti- ons were all strongly faced with stone; and a triple wall, each surrounded by a ditch of very considerable depth and wideness, environed the whole. To defend these more than 300 cannon were placed on the ramparts, besides bombs, how- itzers, &c. &c. Without the walls were several little forts, redoubts, and other fortifica- tions, all constructed with loop-holes for the discharge of musketry, and further strength- ened with palisades, draw- bridges, and covered ways, for the retreat of the soldiery. Within the town, besides the usual garrison, the Grand Vi- zir had planted thirteen thou-

sand of his best troops, all un- der the direction of European engineers, and the principal of them said to be an Englishman. This last gentleman is reported to have perished in the place.

On the morning of the as- sault, General Suwarrow or- dered every cannon and mor- tar in his batteries to play with- out intermission, upon the town. Their thundering com- menced at day-break; and un- der this horrid discharge of bombs, carcases, &c. the Russians marched up to the at- tack. The Turks defended themselves with a gallantry scarce ever equalled. Eight different times were the Mus- covites repulsed, with the slaughter of hundreds of their bravest soldiers. At the ninth, General Suwarrow put himself at their head, and snatching a standard out of an officer's hand, he ran with it directly towards the town, passed the trenches, and clambering up the wall, planted it himself on the rampart: "There (cried he) my fellow soldiers, behold there your standard in the power of the enemy, unless you will preserve it. But I know you are brave, and will

not suffer it to remain in their hands." This short speech had the desired effect. They followed him by multitudes, and a most dreadful carnage ensued, and continued for three days.

During these transactions on the land side, the Russian galleys were ordered to make an attack on that part next the water. On board them several hundreds of Cossacks were stationed, who landed under the fire of the shipping, and after a stout resistance, forced their way into the weakest part of the town, much about the same time that the Russians were entering in at the other. Here, however, a most affecting scene ensued—about two hundred and twenty ladies, belonging to some Bashaws, early in the attack, had endeavoured to escape by water. The fair part of our readers will sympathise with us, when they hear of so many beautiful young women falling into the hands of Cossacks, a set of fellows serving without pay, and delighting in nothing so much as blood and plunder, and therefore justly reckoned the most savage troops in the world. The Seraskier's body was found covered with wounds. Twenty-four thousand of the garrison and inhabitants were killed, and near ten thousand of the Russians. The horse belonging to the latter were obliged to dismount, in order to assist at the assault. The Turks have ever since been filled with consternation.

The capture of Ismael has terminated the campaign on

the Danube, and General Potemkin, it appears, is really gone to Peterburgh. As our great John Duke of Marlborough used to revisit England at the close of every campaign, to keep his royal Mistress firm to the war, and carry his triumphant arms to the very walls of Paris; so the victorious Potemkin is returned on a similar errand to Russia, to lay before the Czarina the real state of affairs in the military line, and persuade her not to listen to any terms of peace with the Ottomans, but such as shall be dictated by him in the very heart of Constantinople.

In the mean time General Suwarrow, who seems possessed of all the evils that ever flew out of Pandora's box, is preparing to pour the phial of his wrath against some other of the Turkish possessions. Of these Silistria and Brailow are, beyond dispute, marked out. But the storm will certainly break first on Brailow. To cover them there against it, the Grand Vizir has caused twelve thousand of his best troops to enter the town. Ten or twelve thousand more are distributed in Silistria. This has reduced his own army to sixty thousand men.

To repair this breach in the main army, sixty thousand troops from the more distant provinces are arrived in the environs of Constantinople. The most powerful levies are making in other parts. An attempt had been made through the ladies of the seraglio, with the Empress-mother at their

ube, and General it appears, is real- to Peterburgh. As t. John Duke of gh used to revisit t the clofe of every , to keep his royal rm to the war, and triumphant arms to walls of Poyis; fo the Potemkin is returned ar errand to Ruffia, fore the Czarina the of affairs in the m- e, and perfuade her- ten to any terms of th the Ottomans, but shall be dictated by e very heart of Con- le.

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head, to induce the Sultan, on account of the late very ill fuccefs of his troops, to come into a peace on any terms. Thefe were feconded, or more properly fet on, by fix thoufand grandees of the empire, who had all put their hands to a petition for that purpofe. But the Sultan, on receiving advice of the capture of Imacl, and the cruelties practifed there by the Ruffians, moft gallantly fware, that he would fooner be buried under the ruins of Conftantinople, than make peace with fo brutal an enemy.

Ever fince that period, it has been publicly proclaimed at Conftantinople, that it fhall be death for any one to talk of peace; and the ladies of the feraglio have been enjoined, under threats of the fame punifhment, not to intermeddle again in any thing of the like tendency. The Emperor no doubt finds himfelf ftrengthened by the exhortations of the Britifh and Pruffian Ambaffadors, who have certainly promifed him affiftance from their mafters, fhould their offers of mediating a peace be rejected.

A lift has been published at Peterburgh of the forces of the Ruffian empire, with a ftatement of the loffes fuffered, both by the land army and that of the fea, during the laft three years. This lofs, including the fick and deferters, is eflimated at 130,000 men. The Ruffian army confifts of four parts, the guards, the campaign troops, the garrifons, and the irregular troops. The guards amounted to 9967 men, but the Swedifh war has reduced them to 5056

men; the campaign troops were 48,441 cavalry, whom the war has reduced to 25,300; and 121,554 infantry, which now amount to only 61,300. The garrifons, which were 103,226 men, are reduced to 96,100; the irregular troops were 127,000 ftrong, but are now reduced to 63,500. The army of the Empreſs, therefore, before the war, amounted to 223,000; but as 100,000 recruits have been raifed, the army has loft above 123,000 men; of courfe there remains about 100,000 men at prefent.

Paris, Feb. 21. His Majeſty's aunts left this place on the 19th inſt. at ten in the evening: They had intimated their intention to return to Paris on the Sunday, but, having heard that fome oppoſition might be offered to their departure, they haftened forward on their journey. Reports have been circulated that they were intercepted at Fountainbleau; but after a ſlight interruption at Moret, they were permitted to depart, and proceeded on their way to ſleep at Auxerre.

The Prefident, on Sunday laſt, read the following letter from the King to the National Aſſembly:

Gentlemen,
Having learnt that the Aſſembly has directed its Committee of Conſtitution to examine, whether individuals of the Royal Family can, under the preſent circumſtances, ſeparate themſelves from the head of the nation, I think myſelf bound to inform the Aſſembly, that I was made acquainted with the

departure of my aunts at ten yesterday evening. As I imagine that, consistently with the principles of liberty, no person can be prevented from going where they please, I did not deem it proper to throw any obstacles in the way of their departure, though I beheld it with regret.

LOUIS.

By the laws now pending in the French Assembly, the King is always to reside near the Assembly while it is sitting, and at other times in any part of the kingdom where he pleases. The heir apparent is to be *with his father*, and not to leave the kingdom upon any account, without the permission of the Assembly.

La Grande Chartreuse, that celebrated convent, where silence and sanctity once reigned in all their most religious forms, is now converted into a *Place d'Armes*, where the national guard deposit their arms. This is amongst the other wonderful changes of time and circumstance, which should console private feelings in more general misfortune.

The populace have broken into the Prince of Conde's park at Chantilly, and destroyed all his game. The prince had been always remarkably tenacious of it, and, of course, very severe against all transgressors. They have also demolished several of the plantations, out of resentment for the Prince's continuing abroad in opposition to the late revolution.

The Pope and the Romish Inquisition have at length tried and acquitted the unfortunate Cagliostro.

Haerlem, Feb. 4. On Tuesday evening we had a violent storm which lasted till Wednesday noon, accompanied with thunder and lightning; and on Wednesday afternoon a dike broke, by which all the country round this city was inundated, and the water rose higher than in the flood of 1775; a vast quantity of cattle are drowned, and much damage done to buildings, mills, barns, &c.

Amsterdam, Feb. 4. We have had almost a continued storm from the ad of this month, with thunder and lightning, which occasioned the waters to rise, and a large track of country to be inundated.

A Royal Bank for the kingdoms of Denmark and Norway has been established by letters patent, dated the 16th February at Copenhagen.

M. de la Grange, an astronomer of Berlin, has made one of the most beautiful discoveries in that science, viz. that all the variations in our system are periodical; so that though every thing be subject to change, yet after a certain interval, all things will return to the same state in which they are at present, and thereby exclude the introduction of disorder, or any irregularity that might constantly increase.

A French Essayist has proposed the following expedient for preventing the exportation of the coin: Let the words, *People be free*, says he, be impressed on the one side; and on the other, *It is a duty to take up arms against all despots*, and your money will be prohibited, like your newspapers, in all the despotic States of Europe.

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There has been a very serious
insurrection among the slaves
in the windward and interior
parts of Dominica, caused by
some mullatoes from Martini-
co making them believe, that
the King has given them three
days in the week to themselves,
and that they are only to work
the other three days for their
proprietors. They have gone
into the woods in large num-
bers, and have carried with
them all the fire-arms, cutlasses,
&c. they could find. Several
strong detachments of soldiers
were sent out after them; and
in one rencounter, at Rosalie
estate, 7 negroes were killed;
but, on the other hand, about
150 negroes surrounded Mr So-
randoe's estate, in the Grand
Bay Quarter, where eight sol-
diers were stationed; the ne-
groes killed two of them, and
took three others prisoners; but
the last letter, which is dated
the 28th of January, says, that
there is reason to believe, that
this insurrection will soon be
suppressed, and order restored.

By accounts from Philadel-
phia it appears, that the situ-
on of the United States of Ame-
rica becomes every day more
flourishing. Mr Hamilton, Se-
cretary to the Treasury, had
proposed a plan, similar to that
of Mr Pitt, for reducing the
debt of the States.—They had,
on the first of January, redem-
ed four millions and a half of
dollars, which reduced the
debt to fifty millions.

Another colony is about to
be established in Canada, of
which the capital is to be Mon-
treal.

DOMESTIC.

On the 5th March, nine casks
of dollars, containing one mil-
lion eight hundred thousand,
weighting 1500 weight, were
brought by the Dover coach,
under a strong guard, and de-
posited at the White Horse
Cellar, in London. They were
landed at Dover from France,
for the use of some great per-
sonages of that kingdom, who
have taken asylum in this coun-
try.

The French Ambassador, ac-
cording to directions from his
Court, has applied to his Ma-
jesty for the release of Lord
George Gordon, and has receiv-
ed an answer *not* favourable to
the wishes of his Lordship.

On the 17th of February, the
Right Hon. Edmund Burke took
the prescribed oaths in the House
of Commons, that he was sixty
years of age, to exempt himself
from serving in future on any
election committee.

The number of convicts who
are to take a trip this season
to Botany Bay amount to
twelve hundred, of whom two
fifths are females. The ex-
pence to Government attend-
ing this voyage will exceed
120,000l.

The fleet under sailing orders
for Botany Bay, have received
orders from Government to
touch upon the Cassiraria coast,
near to the spot where the
Grassenoer East Indiaman, and
all the unhappy crew, met their
dismal fate; they are to land
a certain number of convicts,
under a strong military guard,
and traverse the interior part of
that savage country, in hopes
to trace some remains of those

unfortunate wretches who fell a sacrifice into the hands of the most barbarous race of beings that ever appeared in human shape upon any part of the globe.

All the convicts, on board the vessels for Botany Bay, have been stripped of their clothing; the heads of both men and women being closely shaved, they are furnished with woollen caps, jackets, and petticoats of blue baize, &c. Barrington, though he made one of his best speeches for the preservation of his head of hair, was obliged to submit to the humiliating operation.

The export of bullion to the East-Indies this year, is reckoned at one million and a half of dollars.

A very extraordinary robbery was lately committed in France. The cabinet of Madame du Barry, the celebrated Mistress of Louis XV. and who resides at Lucienne near Paris, was broken into, and jewels and pictures to the value of 60,000 Sterling, carried off.—It was not discovered for some days, when a reward of two thousand Louis d'ors was offered in all the foreign Gazettes for the discovery of the robbers.

On the 13th of February five foreigners came to Bradshaw's Inn in London, of whom only one could speak English, and who appeared to be the principal and interpreter. Some suspicions having been intimated to Bradshaw as to these persons, notice was given to M. Barthelémy, the French Secretary, who, accompanied by an

under Secretary of State, went to the inn. Sir Sampson Wright was sent for, when they were taken into custody, and underwent an examination. Their lodgings being searched, a number of boxes were found, containing diamonds, pearls, gold and silver medals, and a large sum in bank-notes concealed in the linings of their coats. They were all committed to the Poultry Compter, and an express was sent off to Madame du Barry.

The Lady herself came to London on the 14th of February, and having sworn that these were her jewels, they were restored to her; but the robbers had disposed of, or destroyed to the amount of 3000l. After another long examination before the Lord Mayor, they were all committed to Newgate, but it is uncertain if the laws of this country will allow their being tried here. They are all French Jews, and one of them a silver-smith and jeweller, who had frequent access to M. du Barry's house in the way of his profession; and who, it is said, was the prime agent in the business.

Madame du Barry is about forty years of age. She has property to the amount of fifteen thousand pounds per annum. She still retains all the charms which captivated the late King.

A gentleman has offered a prize of 20l. to the students of Oxford, for the best English poem on the following subject: "The state of the Aborigines of this island before the time of the Romans."

Secretary of State, went
a. Sir Sampson Wright
for, when they were
to custody, and under
examination. Their
being searched, a num-
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bank-note concealed
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Madame herself came to
see her on the 24th of Febru-
ary, having sworn that
she had her jewels, they
were shown to her; but she
had disposed of, or
lost to the amount of
£1000 after another long ex-
amination before the Lord May-
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to the Prisoner Compter, but it is uncertain
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which motivated the late King.
A Frenchman has offered a
fortune to the students of
the best English
the following subject:
the fate of the Aborigines
and before the time of
the French.

On the 23d of February
Capt. Perry, a proprietor of a
newspaper intitled the *ARGUS*,
was found guilty of a Libel a-
gainst Mr Pitt, falsely insinuat-
ing that the publication of
the Extraordinary Gazette an-
nouncing the arrival of Dref-
sings, the messenger to the Spa-
nish Court, during the late ne-
gociations, had been delayed
for two days, for the purpose
of affording the Minister and
his agents an opportunity of
making an advantage in the
Stocks of the intelligence which
his dispatches contained.

The very stormy weather in
February has done immense
damage at sea among the fish-
ing smacks. On the Dogger
Bank in particular, several
smacks have been totally lost.
All of them lost their anchors
and cables, and some had their
people washed overboard; one
in particular had her Captain
and four men washed off deck.
There has been yet no intelli-
gence of upwards of twenty.

The crew of the *Diligence*,
Lawson, lately lost in the north
sea, were picked up by a fishing
smack and carried into Ostend,
after being several days tossed
about in the most deplorable
condition, through hunger and
cold. They were reduced to
the necessity of killing and eat-
ing the dog; a boy died after
they were picked up. Mr Law-
son's son, a boy, has lost some
of his toes by the cold. Three
(passengers) refused to assist at
the pump, till the water had
got considerably above the ca-
bin-floor, when they got upon
deck; but no sooner were they
above, than a sea swept all three
overboard.

About the beginning of Feb-
ruary, the Lady Salton, of In-
verness, Donald Mackay mas-
ter, foundered at sea in her pas-
sage from Balachulish to Inver-
ness, loaded with flutes, and all
the crew perished except a man
and a boy.

On the 2d March, died, at
his house in the City-road,
London, in the 88th year of his
age, that well known and cele-
brated minister and reformer,
the Reverend Mr John Wesley.
This extraordinary man was
born in the year 1703, at Ep-
worth, a village in Lincolnshire,
of which place his father Sam-
uel Wesley was rector. At a
proper age, John was sent to
Christ Church College, Oxford.
About 1725, he was elected
Fellow of Lincoln College. In
1729, he joined a society of fel-
low-students in private devo-
tion, and from this time his
spiritual career may be dated.
In 1735, he embarked for Geor-
gia, in order to convert the In-
dians, but returned to England
in 1737, where Mr Whitefield
had commenced the work of
reformation. In 1735, he visit-
ed Count Zinzendorf, at Hern-
holt in Germany, the chief of
the Moravians. We find him
in England again in the follow-
ing year, and on April 2d, he
preached his first *field sermon* at
Bristol, from which time his
disciples have continued to in-
crease. He remained the rest
of his days in this kingdom,
travelling through every part of
it, and establishing congrega-
tions in England, Scotland, and
Ireland. In 1750, he married
a lady, from whom he after-
wards parted, and she died in
1782. He had no children.

Of his writings it is impossible for us to speak: Few men have written so voluminously; divinity, devotional and controversial; history, philosophy, medicine, politics, poetry, &c. &c. all were at different times the subjects of his pen.—His life, if well written, would certainly be important; for, in every respect, as the founder of the most numerous sect in the kingdom, as a man, and as a writer, he must be considered as one of the most extraordinary characters this age has produced.

On the 24th and 25th January, no light appearing in the light-house erected on the Isle of May, in the mouth of the Firth of Forth, a boat was dispatched from Crail to know the cause. On their arrival they burst open the door, and found the man, his wife, and five children all suffocated, and an infant, ten months old, sucking its dead mother. In another room, they found the two watchmen nearly expiring, but who, on being brought into the fresh air, recovered, as also did one of the children. Two cows were also found dead.

A man of the name of Carr, in Dublin, and who possessed a considerable fortune, had sentence of death passed on him, on the 17th of February, in the Court of King's Bench in Ireland, for forgery.

William Gadesby, whose execution had been respited by the High Court of Justiciary, on account of some discoveries he had promised to make, was hanged at Edinburgh, on the 23d of February. The behaviour of this unhappy man, for some time, had been sullen and hardened, and very unbecoming his situation, of which indeed he seemed to be insensible. He was attended by the Reverend Mr Finlayson, and a gentleman of the Methodist persuasion. Having finished his devotions, he mounted the platform, and addressed the spectators in a firm and loud voice, for more than half an hour. He warned them to shun the crimes which had brought him to that untimely end, and entered into a detail of the various robberies he had committed, mentioning that he had been four times tried for his life. He solemnly and repeatedly declared, though now on the brink of eternity, that Falconer, Bruce and Dick, were innocent of the robbery of the Dundee bank. When the platform was about to drop, he was solemnly requested by one of the attendants, to tell what he knew respecting the robbery of the Dundee Bank, when he again declared as a dying man, that it was committed by him and other two men.

The Editor is still forced to request the indulgence of his Readers for the imperfections of this Work, and for the delay, which unavoidable accidents have occasioned, of a regular publication of the Chronicle. But he trusts that he will in future be enabled to annex a half-sheet of this Article to every third number.

am Gadesby, whose execution had been respited by the court of Justiciary, on account of some discoveries he promised to make, was at Edinburgh, on the 12th of February. The behaviour of this unhappy man, at that time, had been fullen, and very unbecoming his situation, of which he seemed to be insensible. He was attended by the Rev. Mr. Finlayson, and a number of the Methodist persuasion. Having finished his deposition, he mounted the platform, and addressed the spectators in a firm and loud voice, for more than half an hour. He then turned them to him the which had brought him to this untimely end, and entered into a detail of the various crimes he had committed, saying that he had been tried for his life. He then repeatedly declared, now on the brink of death, that Falconer, Bruce, &c. were innocent of the robbery of the Dundee bank. He then said he was about to tell what he knew of the robbery of the Dundee Bank, when he again expired as a dying man, that committed by him and two men.

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SHORT CHRONICLE

OF EVENTS.

[APRIL 13. 1791.]

FOREIGN.

IN consequence of some late riots at Constantinople, and of the daily assemblies of the people, the Grand Signior has caused all places of public resort to be shut up, and ordered persons seen in mobs to be punished with instant death. A proclamation has been issued, prohibiting any conversation as to the operations of the Russians; and several of the inhabitants, both male and female, have been thrown into the sea, for reporting that the Turkish army have been beaten.

The Empress of Russia has presented Prince Potemkin with a very rich dress, with diamond buttons, epaulets, and buckles, of the value of 30,000l. Sterling, and has likewise given him the palace of Stuckhoff, which cost her 56,000l. Sterling.

On the 12th of March the Emperor of Germany went to Preibourg, and dissolved the diet. On the 14th, his Majesty, accompanied by the Empress Queen, the King and Queen of Naples, and a grand suite, set out for Venice, where they arrived on the 24th.—They next proceeded to Rome, where superb

preparations are making by the Nobles for their reception.

A Swedish Lieutenant Colonel, of the name of Tiegerstedt, who possessed a considerable property in Savolax in Finland, having acted as a Russian spy, has been beheaded, and burned at the foot of the scaffold at Stockholm.

An inundation has taken place at Hamburgh, by which great part of that city has been laid under water; the damage is calculated at 160,000 crowns.

The city of Altona, and its environs, have not fared better than Hamburgh. The embankments round it were not able to resist the violence of the sea, and the whole country seems a kind of lake. At Timmshoff and Gluckstadt, the flat country is almost entirely under water. The desolation is general, and the loss immense.

A similar calamity has likewise happened in Holland.

The inhabitants of Calabria are still kept in continual alarm by repeated earthquakes, by which much damage has been lately done to the towns and villages; and in various parts, the face of the country has been materially changed.

The Electors of the departments of Paris have chosen M. Gobart, Bishop of *Lydda in Partibus*, Suffragan of the bishoprick of Basil, to the Metropolitan See of Paris, in the place of M. de Juigne, who refused to take the Civic Oath within the limited time; and as the new Bishop of Paris has been consecrated, he will immediately proceed to fulfill the functions of his office, and install the new Rectors of the capital. Ten new-elected Bishops have lately been consecrated; among the rest, M. Brendel, the new Bishop of Strasburgh, who immediately set out back again to his See. The Cardinal de Lomenie (de Brienne), one of the four only Bishops of the old clergy who have taken the oath, is elected to the metropolitan See of Thoulouse, which he filled before, from which he was translated (whilst prime minister) to the archbishoprick of Sens, which is now become a bishoprick, as are all the archiepiscopal Sees of France.

The above-named Prelate was Prime Minister of France at the time of the Revolution, and the popular clamour was so strong against him, that he was forced to fly to Italy for personal safety.

The deputation from the National Assembly were all charged, in the name of their constituents, to invite the Prelate to come among them again, but this he declined.

The convalescence of the French King, who had been ill of a sore throat, was celebrated in Paris, on the 20th of

March, by *Te Deums* in the morning, and an illumination in the evening.

The National Assembly of France have decreed, that foreigners, not resident in France, may inherit the estates of their relations dying in France: And that children, whose parents had lived together as man and wife, and who have been treated by their parents as legitimate children, shall be considered in the eye of the law as such, and succeed to the estate of their parents.

The great Orator and Statesman M. de Mirabeau, died at Paris on the 2d April. He preserved his senses to the last, and when he heard the people crying the *Bulletin* of his health under the window of his bed-chamber, he expressed his gratitude for this instance of public affection and anxiety, by exclaiming, "how consoling would it be to die in their service!"

He died in the forty-second year of his age, leaving many of his intended plans unfinished, but at a time when his reputation had attained an height, which it probably would not have exceeded.

The body of M. de Mirabeau was opened under a tent in his garden, in the presence of the Judges of the Tribunal, four Municipal Officers, and several surgeons, amongst whom, those belonging to the several battalions of the National Guard were very properly invited. No symptom that he had been poisoned was discovered.

All the places of public amusement in Paris were shut on the day of his death.

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ay of his death.

In the National Assembly,
nothing lately has occurred
more deserving of notice, than
a letter from the Friends of the
Constitution at Marseilles, dat-
ed the 13th of March. To the
number of 2000, they offer
themselves to march to the
frontiers, and by their valour
repel the invaders of the liber-
ties of France—Not unapposite-
ly they allude to the following
anecdote: "The Phocians our
ancestors, say they, in landing
upon these shores, cast a bar of
iron into the water, swearing
never to return to despotism and
their country until that bar
should swim out. It is still in
our Gulph, and we again swear
never to return to slavery, un-
til it float upon the surface."

The National Assembly have
received an authentic statement
of a horrid massacre at Nismes,
in which the fanatic party, spi-
rited up by the Priests and
Monks, with an industrious
zealot named Froment at their
head, formed themselves into a
body, and previously trampling
the National Cockade under
foot, well armed, proceeded to
attack the *Troupes de Ligne* and
the *Guardes Nationales*:—twice
they carried off the *Red Flag*.
The rest of these fanatics, en-
trenched within the convent of
the *Capuchins*, fired upon the
people, who at length becom-
ing the stronger, brought forth
the artillery against the con-
vent, took it by assault, and de-
molished every thing, excepting
the church and the images of
the Divinity. Froment they
precipitated from a tower, and
so inextinguishable was the fury

of the people, that they cut the
whole body of rebels entirely to
pieces—not one escaped.

There has been a riot at
Douay, in which, by the ne-
glect of the Magistrates, the
populace proceeded to great vio-
lence, and hanged two persons.
The tumult was at last sup-
pressed, and the National As-
sembly of France have order-
ed these Magistrates into cus-
tody, for trial before the su-
preme occasional Court.

On the 2d of February, a
very serious dispute took place
between the light infantry of the
late French Guards and a party
of smugglers and their adhe-
rents, at a place called la
Chapelle, in the environs of
Paris—it was a pitched battle:
eighteen were shot dead, and
above forty wounded.

There is at present a Priest
in the jail of Angoulême, for
having murdered many infants,
the fruits of his debauchery!—
Already above two hundred
witnesses have appeared against
him, and in the clearest manner
confirm his guilt.

The following singular me-
thod to prove the strength of
a building was lately adopted
at Paris:

The Theatre on the Boule-
vards, at Paris, was erected in
fifty-three days, in the room
of that which had been burnt
down in the Palais Royale;
when the building was com-
pleted, a superb Opera, with
most magnificent dresses, was
advertised to be performed
gratis. The salle was croud-
ed, stair cases and all, to the
very doors, on the Boulevards,

and continued so during the whole of the performance; by this means a most adequate survey of its strength was effected, at the trifling risk of the lives and limbs of the Savoyards, water-carriers, fish-women, and other *useless* members of society; as beyond a doubt no person of the smallest rank or fashion attended the exhibition.

The persons accused in Spain of having circulated a libel against the Minister of State, are sentenced to banishment. There was, however, so much doubt as to the propriety of the sentence, that, out of twenty-four judges, only thirteen approved of it.

The American Congress have resolved upon the institution of a National Bank, according to a plan furnished by Mr Hamilton. The notes of this Bank are to be taken in all the public offices as specie, and the Banks of each State are to give money for them when tendered. The capital of this Bank is to consist of ten millions of dollars, to be raised by twenty-five thousand shares of four hundred dollars each. Of these, 2000 shares have been subscribed for in the State of New-York, and there was no doubt but the whole sum would soon be raised.

In an account published by authority of the American Congress, of the action between General Harmar and the Miami Indians, near the Ohio, it appears, that of the latter 120 were killed, all their wigwams burnt, and above 20,000 bush-

els of Indian corn destroyed: of the former, 2 Majors, 3 Captains, 3 Lieutenants, 4 Ensigns, 171 rank and file killed; 2 Lieutenants, 1 Ensign, 28 rank and file, wounded.

One hundred and forty thousand tierces of rice were made during the last crop in South Carolina, together with a very large quantity of indigo and tobacco: but Providence ordained a severe draw-back on this blessing: the fall of the year was remarkably unhealthy, inasmuch that 25 funerals daily were not unusual in the city of Charlestown alone.

Letters from New-York mention, that they have had one of the severest frosts that ever was remembered; the people in general walked from New-York to Long Island: several booths were built on the ice, and a great number of ships have been frozen up, and were detained from sailing.

By a census lately completed at Philadelphia, that city is found to contain upwards of fifty three thousand inhabitants.

Mr Bowles proposes to introduce the art of Printing amongst the Indians, with whom he resides; and for this purpose, has engaged two persons to accompany him on his return, and has provided himself with all the implements of the art.

The deaths in the regiment that arrived at the Bahamas in July last, amounted to three lieutenants, nine serjeants, eighty privates, thirty-two women, and thirty-seven children.

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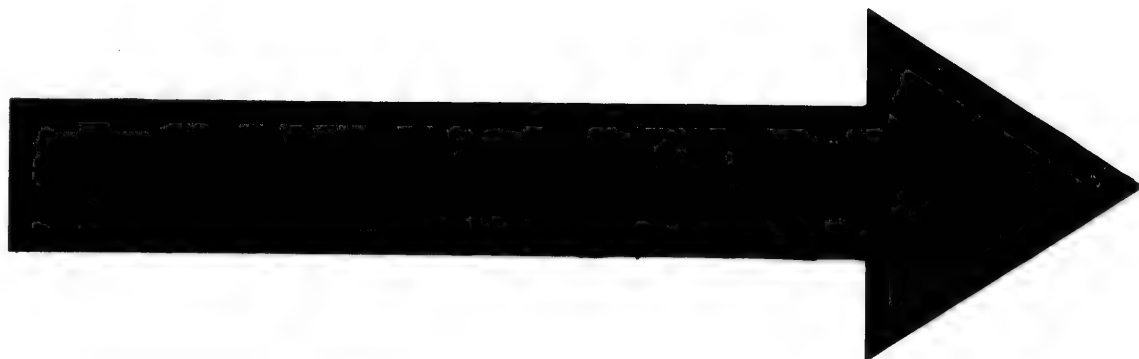
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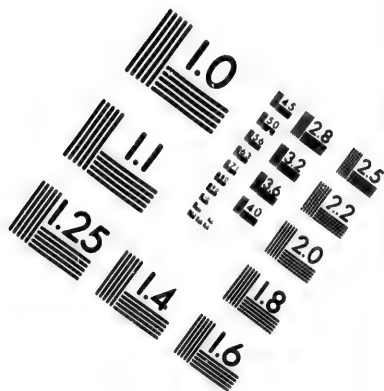
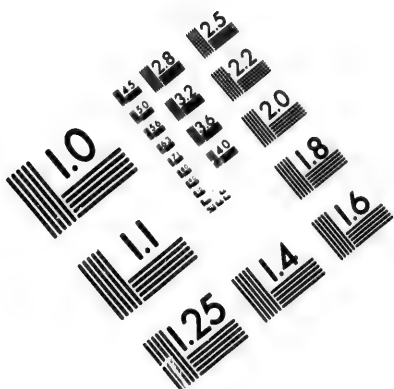
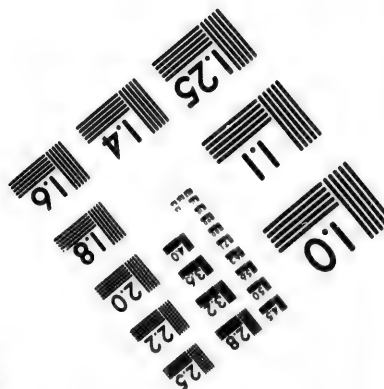
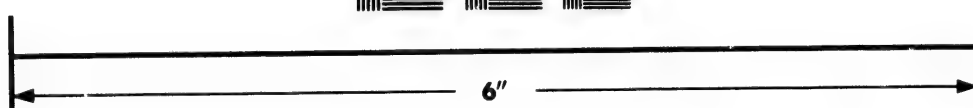
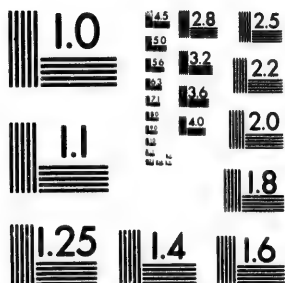


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I

DOMESTIC.

The Duke of York has received a letter from the King of Prussia, inviting him to that kingdom, and offering him the command of a legion of the finest troops in the universe. The letter has been laid before his Majesty, who it is said has given his consent, and preparations are accordingly making for his Royal Highness's departure. His hories and carriages have been sold, and produced about 5000l.

From all the ports of Russia, there are 700 sail of English ships annually employed, which are, on an average, of 300 tons each.

The number of convicts already sent to New South Wales amounts to 2000 and upwards; above 1800 are now embarked for that settlement.

The annual expence of the civil and military establishments at that place is nearly 10,000l.

The gold coined during the present reign amounts to 45,638,269l. 8s. 6d; the silver coined in the same time, to 68,609l. 9s. 2d.

The revenue in the department of the Excise alone was increased last year no less than 700,000l. principally arising from the new management of the wine duties.

The last return to the Excise Office, shew the number of Grocers in Great Britain to be 40,000, Keepers of Public-houses 76,000.

The number of Bishops in Britain and Ireland is forty-eight, whose revenues amount to 160,000l. per annum. The

number of Curates is one thousand, and their income is not half the sum.

The Archbishop of Dublin has lately received, for the renewal of only one lease, the sum of 12000 guineas.

John Butler Esq; has made good his claim to the Earldom of Ormond and Ossory in Ireland, and has accordingly received his Majesty's summons to Parliament.

By the clauses proposed to be introduced into the Irish Lottery Act, no person can follow the business without a lodgment of 4450l. viz. 2000l. as a deposit, 2200l. for 300 tickets to be divided, and 250l. for a licence.

The Company of Bookellers of Dublin have resolved on giving a considerable bounty for an improvement in the manufacture of paper in Ireland.

A Miss Clerk, a young lady of the age of fourteen years, and who will be possessed, it is said, of no less a sum than 6000l. per annum, with a considerable share of ready money, eloped from her boarding-school, in Park-street, Bristol, on the 19th of March, for Gretna-Green, with a Mr Perry, surgeon in Bristol. The Lady is a ward of Chancery, and though advertisements, signed by the Secretary of State, offering a reward for the apprehension of either of the parties, have been published, and bills posted in every county in England, no intelligence has been received of them. It is supposed they have got clear off to the Continent.

An action was brought at last Exeter Assizes by Mr Thomson, of Saxlingham, against the Rev. Mr Atwood, Rector of Saxlingham, for the recovery of 100*l.* being the penalty of 10*l.* per month for non-residence on his benefice; to which no defence was made, and a verdict of course was given for the Plaintiff.

At Lancaster Assizes, a cause was brought forward against a clergyman of that county, for seducing the daughter of a respectable farmer. Several circumstances were proved in evidence that considerably aggravated the offence, and the Jury, in consequence, gave a verdict for the Plaintiff, 500*l.* damages.

An action for *crim. con.* was tried lately in Dublin—John Travers, Esq; against his *possession*, in which the Jury gave a verdict against the latter for five thousand pounds!

In the English Court of King's Bench, a Mr Ball has obtained a verdict against Mr Allen, a Brewer in Burr-street, Wapping, for *crim. con.* with the wife of the former.

Another action for *crim. con.* was lately tried in the King's Bench—Mr Hodges against the Hon. C. Wyndham: but it appearing to be with the privy of the former, a verdict was given for the Defendant.

An overseer of the poor in Herefordshire, who lately gave different premiums for the marriages of several females, proved himself no ordinary calculator; as with one that had a *bad leg* he gave only forty shillings! but with another that had a *bad tongue*, five pounds!

On the 2d of March, a fire broke out in the Albion Mills, London, in that part where the wheat is cleaned previous to its being ground. It was occasioned by the friction of one of the wheels of a stove used in drying the wheat, causing such a heat as inflamed the whole machine. Notwithstanding it was discovered immediately, and every effort made to extinguish it, yet it spread on every side, and the whole building was soon in a blaze. The internal parts being wholly built of wood, were soon consumed; so that in less than hour and an half, the whole building, except the outside walls, and Mr Wyatt's house in the North-west corner, was levelled with the ground. The fire likewise communicated to the houses on the opposite side of the narrow street adjoining, and entirely burnt down the Bunch of Grapes public-house, and two empty houses.

Great quantities of wheat, after being burnt to a cinder, were thrown into the air by the force of the fire, and fell like a shower at a considerable distance round.

An astonishing quantity of wheat and flour is consumed in the mill, and also two barges loaded with wheat, which were in the dock under the mill.

The reports respecting the loss are various—from 20,000 to 40,000 sacks of flour; and the whole value, buildings, and stock, are estimated at about 120,000*l.* one half of which was insured in different offices.

We are happy to find that no lives were lost.

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By a late survey made of the
Coal-mines in the neighbour-
hood of Birmingham, it appears
that they can produce 600,000
tons of coals annually for one
thousand years.

On the 6th April, about mid-
night, as the mail coaches
were changing their luggage at
Chester, on account of an acci-
dent that had happened to one
of them, a small box, contain-
ing 1000 guineas in specie, and
consigned to the Lord Lieute-
nant of Ireland, was carried off
by some person unknown.

A general Bill of the Christen-
ings and Burials in London,
from December 13. 1789, to
December 14. 1790.

Christened,	{ Males	9766
	{ Females,	9214
In all		18980
Buried,	{ Males,	9192
	{ Females,	8846
In all		18038

Whereof have died,	
Under two years old,	5877
Between two and five,	1948
Five and ten,	748
Ten and twenty,	640
Twenty and thirty,	1277
Thirty and forty,	1233
Forty and fifty,	1785
Fifty and sixty,	1548
Sixty and seventy,	1233
Seventy and eighty,	818
Eighty and ninety,	376
Ninety and a hundred,	51
A hundred and two,	1
A hundred and three,	1
A hundred and five,	1
A hundred and seven,	1

Decrease of the Burials this
year, 711.

A sailor belonging to the Im-
pregnable at Plymouth, had the
marriage banns published on
the 3d April between himself
and one of the Liberty-street
girls; but being informed, that
the fair one had an amour
with a young man belonging
to the Corps of Artificers, he
early next morning went to her
apartments, armed with a load-
ed pistol, and finding the un-
fortunate object of his jealousy
asleep in his intended wife's
arms, he immediately shot him
through the head, and he in-
stantly expired. The murderer
was taken and committed to
Exeter gaol.

On the 19th of March, the
first of the six large columns,
which are to adorn the princi-
pal front of the New College
of Edinburgh, was erected, in
presence of a great number of
spectators; and exhibits a speci-
men of the noblest architecture
ever seen in this country. This
beautiful stone is in height from
the base to the capital 22 feet 4
inches, and in diameter at the
base 3 feet 3 inches.

On the morning of the 16th
March, about seven o'clock, a
fire was discovered in the Great
Distillery at Canonmills, occu-
pied at present by Mess. Steins.
It had for some time a most
alarming appearance, and burnt
with amazing violence. The
large malt kiln, in which the
fire broke out, and the malt-
barn immediately adjoining, to-
gether with the grain contain-
ed in them, which amounted to
a large quantity, were entirely
destroyed, and the houses al-
most burnt to the ground. The

damage is computed at 2000 l. but the premises are insured.

Upon the 10th of March, Sir William Cunningham of Robertsonland, Ayrshire, sowed a number of acres with beans and oats, being the first in that country, which was followed by a number of his tenants and neighbours.

Mr Raspe, the celebrated Mineralogist, has completed a tour of the Highlands and Isles of Scotland. He confirms what was advanced by Dr Walker, Dr Anderson and others, that there are several valuable mines of marble in the Western Isles. A ship laden with the marble of one of the Isles lately arrived at Leith. Many other mines have also been examined, or discovered by Mr Raspe.

The Reverend Dr John Cumming, a dissenting clergyman of the town of Andover, lately deceased, having resided seven years within the King's College, Aberdeen, in the course of his academical studies, thought proper to bequeath to the said College 100l. to be disposed of at the discretion of the Principal and Professors, on the buildings or otherwise; together with his collection of coins and medals, some of which, of both kinds, are very valuable. Mr Joseph Smith of Andover, and Mr Steele of Wakeford, his executors, have carefully transmitted the coins and medals, which are deposited in a proper repository within the College, and have paid the legacy.

On the 19th March the ship Brunswick was launched at Greenock from Scott and Company's building yard. She measures above 600 tons, carpenter's measure; may carry about 1000 tons real burden; and is supposed to be the largest vessel built in Scotland since the Union. Much praise is due to Mr Scott for his masterly workmanship.

A new system of police is established in Glasgow, by which every householder is obliged to take his turn as watchman, or patrol, without distinction of ranks, or forfeit the sum of 2s. 6d. every night it comes to his turn. That city we may conclude will be well watched.

Mr Alexander Bruce, late merchant in Edinburgh, has received a gold medal, value 20 guineas, from the Empress of Russia, as an acknowledgment of the advantages derived from his excellent treatise respecting the plague.

Several shares of the British Linen Company's stock were sold on the 7th of March, at double their original price.

On the 3d of March, were married, in the chapel of Old Deer, in presence of a numerous company of spectators, a decent well looking widow woman, about 50 years of age, to a man in Steuartfield, 81 years old; and what is very remarkable, and which perhaps will not occur in an age, it was the seventh time he had gone that road.

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- p. 10, l. 7. bot. for deprecate, read depreciate
p. 12. note, l. 2, for freight, read freight
p. 17. note, bot. add, the same effect would be produced
p. 16, l. 21 from bottom, for favourable, read unfavourable.
p. 17. l. 4th, for Runk, read thrunk.
lb. for Sainoin, read Sainfoin
p. 28. l. 6 from bottom, for broken, read broken
p. 36, line 10, for salt smearing, read salt, smearing.
p. 40 l. 16, for aurels, read laurels.
p. 55, l. 5, for husbandmen misapprehend, read husbandmen should either misapprehend
p. 64, l. 4, for concerning read conducting
p. 69, l. 6, for the, read they
lb. l. 3 from bottom, for the virgin's hand, read her virgin hand
lb. l. penult, for lights read lions
p. 70, between the 10 and 11 line, add a line of dots
lb. l. 19, for always on read off upon
p. 71. l. 12, for enough his mind read read, read his mind enough read
p. 74, l. 12, for propable read probable
p. 77, l. 22, for ane read and
lb. l. 30, for ventulation read ventilation
p. 79, l. 4, for hat read that
lb. l. 5, for hat read that
p. 84, l. 24, for plants read plains
p. 108, l. 18, for seringa read seringa
p. 111, l. 18, for probation read perfection
p. 113, l. 7, for Sir John read Sir William
p. 138, l. 5, for Hymn I. read Hymn II.
lb. l. 20, for upon read up on
lb. l. 22, for or read over
p. 142, l. 11 from bottom, for even read even
p. 174, l. 10 bottom, for abfior read abfior
lb. l. 6 for Bergmann read Bergmann
p. 179, l. 12. read thus. Soon after the earthquake at Lisbon happened, by which disastrous accident Mr. M. lost almost all his property. But afterwards the lucrative division of the prize money, gained by the capture of the Hermione, having made a more than favourable change in their circumstances, these generous Captains, &c.
This extraordinary error was occasioned by the carelessness of the transcriber, and ought to be altered, as it materially affects the sense of the passage
p. 184, l. 13, for a read an
p. 184, l. 18, at the beginning of this line, add the three following paragraphs,
p. 200, l. 3, for calves read calves
lb. l. 5 from bottom, for young and smiling, read young, my smiling
p. 201, motto, for Tib. 43 Be, read Tib. l. 3, El.
lb. l. 2, for short read Arid
lb. l. 3, for life read life
p. 203, l. 4 from bottom, for inferead inserted
p. 204, l. 17, for Jock and Jenny read the wooing of Jock and Jenny
lb. note, for Traipart read Traipart
p. 205, l. 3, for provided, read pronounced
p. 209, l. 21, for Scots read score
lb. l. 27, for make a new model of, read make, or new model
p. 210, Sig. for Runcle read Runcle
p. 214, l. 2, for quick read Nic.
p. 214, note l. 2, for great read aerial
p. 215 l. 1, for crown read brown
p. 215, penult, for Amadis of Sebilla, read Amadis, of Sebilla
p. 217, l. 15, for Bertien read Bertien
lb. l. 20, for Norille read Noille
p. 234, l. 31, for owe read own
lb. l. 35, for flatterers read flatterers
p. 245, note l. 14, for British read British
p. 255, l. 7 from bottom, for mild read wild
p. 274 motto, for Sapisset read Sapisset
p. 275, l. 17 from bottom, for or read or
p. 279, l. 1, for Klug read King
lb. l. 7 from bottom, for glass read glass
lb. l. 18, for supply read supply
p. 280, l. 5, for to try read to try
p. 294, l. 19, for substances that, read substances laid upon objects that
lb. l. 24, for have been, read have not been
p. 299, l. 20, for under read in
p. 305, l. 11, for rise read use
lb. last line, for ruff read craft
p. 306, note l. 2, for respected read respected
lb. l. 4, for involuntarily read involuntarily
p. 307, l. 14, for tew read few
p. 312, l. 13, at the end of the paragraph add left a part of the alkali disengaged
p. 323, l. 11, for cylindrical read spherical
p. 325, l. 13, for duellity read duellity
p. 327, l. 8, from bottom, for Schimnik read Shennitz
p. 339, l. 20, for echounded read con-founded
p. 342, l. 21, for Fig. 2 read Fig. 4
p. 350, l. 6, for lieht read light
p. 350, l. 3, for Quickly read Quickly

TO THE BINDER.

The three half sheets of the Chronicle to be bound up before the Index.

End of Vol. II.

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